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赤木しげる伝説

アカギ

活眼の闘牌 11

闇に降り立った天才

活眼の闘牌

福本伸行

TAKE SHOBO

近代麻雀コミックス ● 竹書房

福本伸行

AKAGI ● Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Kindai Mahjong Comics

第11巻

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●TAKE SHOBO●

赤木しげる

あらすじ

昭和33年。チキンランを生き残った少年・赤木しげるは、初めて打つ麻雀でも異才を発揮し、ヤクザ相手の勝負に次々と勝利を収めてゆく。

昭和40年。退屈に倦んだ資産家・鷲巣は、血液を賭ける狂気の麻雀を行っていた。彼の餌食となった若者の中にかつてアカギと戦った"ニセアカギ"がいた。アカギ・仰木・安岡の3人は、殺人鬼・鷲巣を狩るため、生き血を賭けた勝負・鷲巣麻雀に挑んだ。1回戦、2回戦とも辛くもアカギの勝利となるが……!?

登場人物

鷲巣

権力を利用して巨万の富を築いた老人。麻雀で若者の命をもてあそぶ。

安岡

不良刑事。アカギを立てて鷲巣の資産5億円を奪おうとしている。

仰木

稲田組の若頭。安岡の誘いに乗りアカギを使って鷲巣に挑戦する。

鈴木

鷲巣の部下。今回の対局の鷲巣のアシスタント役。

【鷲巣麻雀概要】

アカギが半荘6回戦を戦い抜けばアカギ側の勝利。途中でアカギが絶命すれば、それまでに得た現金も全て没収、鷲巣側の勝利となる。

●レート:1000点=100万円=血液100c.c.。アカギと鷲巣のサシ勝負。ウマ(1万・3万)・オカを加算したポイント差で半荘ごとに精算。アカギの致死量2000c.c.は点棒2万点に相当し、鷲巣の現有資産5億円は50万点に相当する。

●ガラス牌:1種4牌のうち3枚が透明ガラス牌。

●ボーナス払い:半荘精算時以外にも、アカギと鷲巣の間で直接点棒の移動があった場合には、その局ごとに血液or現金をやりとりする。

●鷲巣側の特例:半荘2回を区切りとして勝負を続行するか、途中終了するかを、鷲巣側のみ選択できる。

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◎『近代麻雀』平成11年10月号～12月号
平成12年2月1日号～2月15日号
平成13年6月15日号～8月1日号所載

CHAPTER 91 - DEFROSTING

第91話解凍

ざわ…

ざわ…

THAT HAND …

IMPOSSIBLE!!

A 3-6 MAN WAIT?!

SO THEN WHY WOULD HE GO WITH THIS TERRIBLE 3-6 MAN WAIT?!

HE COULD HAVE DRASTICALLY INCREASED HIS ODDS WITH A 1-4-7 MAN WAIT…!

OR, FOR JUST RIICHI …

IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN II-PEI-KOU WITH A 2- MAN WAIT…

WHICH MEANS …

HE DECLARED RIICHI ON THE 1-MAN …

RIGHT UP TO THAT FINAL MO-MENT?

WAS HE MANIPU-LATING ME...

THAT LITTLE TWIRP ...!

COULD HE HAVE BEEN LEADING ME ON ...?

HE SOMEHOW READ THAT I WOULD PASS ON CALLING THE XIA...

HE READ ME LIKE A BOOK!

AND WOULD INSTEAD AIM FOR THIS SHAPE...

IN OTHER WORDS ...

ALL I NEEDED TO WIN FROM HIM WOULD BE A SIMPLE MANGAN HAND ...

AFTER HE CALLED THAT RIICHI...

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I CAN THINK OF FOR SUCH A STRANGE RIICHI...!

MY HATSU, XIA, DORA 3 TENPAI COULD HAVE GOTTEN TO THAT POINT INSTANTLY!

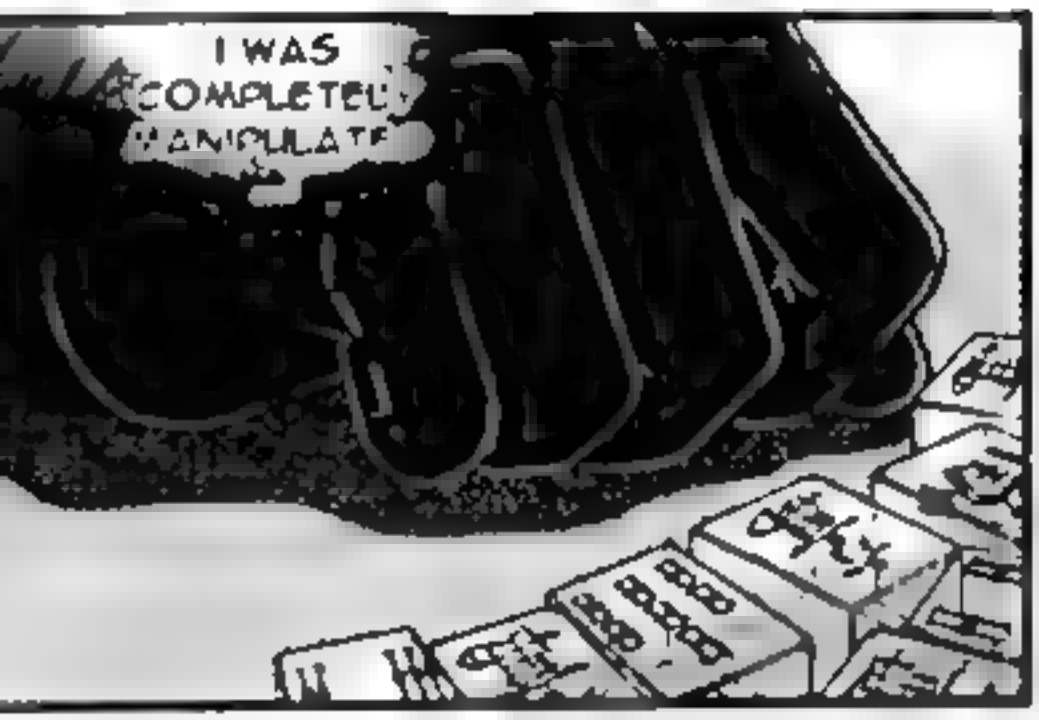
BUT STILL, RIGHT AFTER THAT...

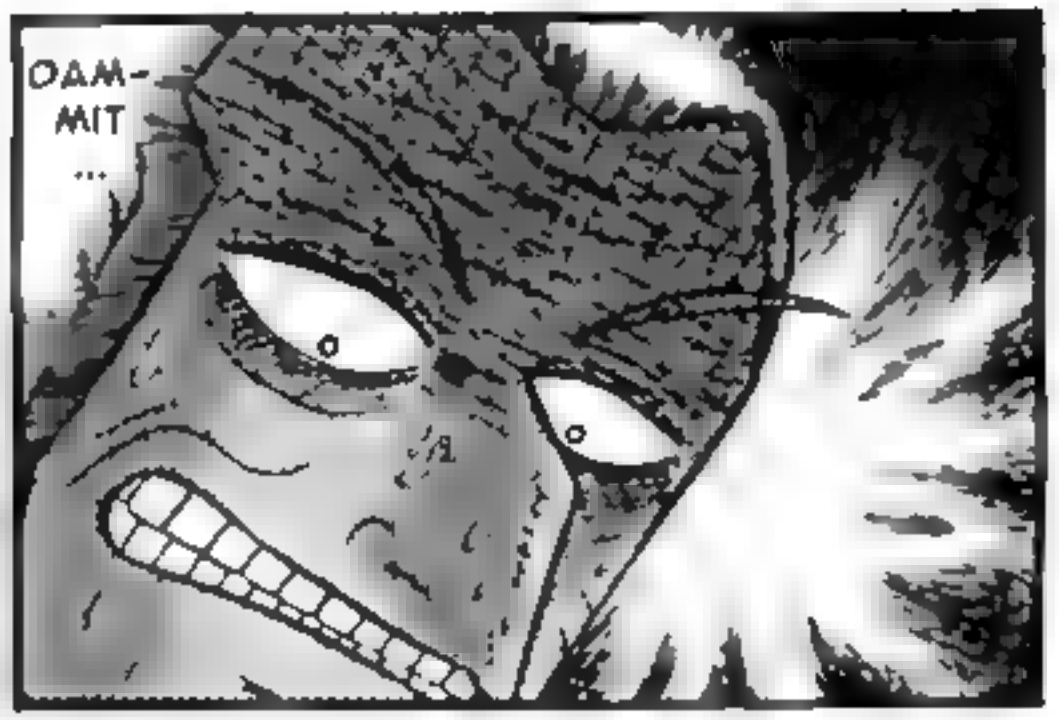
WITH AN ATAMA HANE!!

THAT 3-MAN ...

YOU COULD HAVE STOLEN MY WINNING TILE FROM SUZUKI...!

HOW COULD YOU HAVE THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD...?!

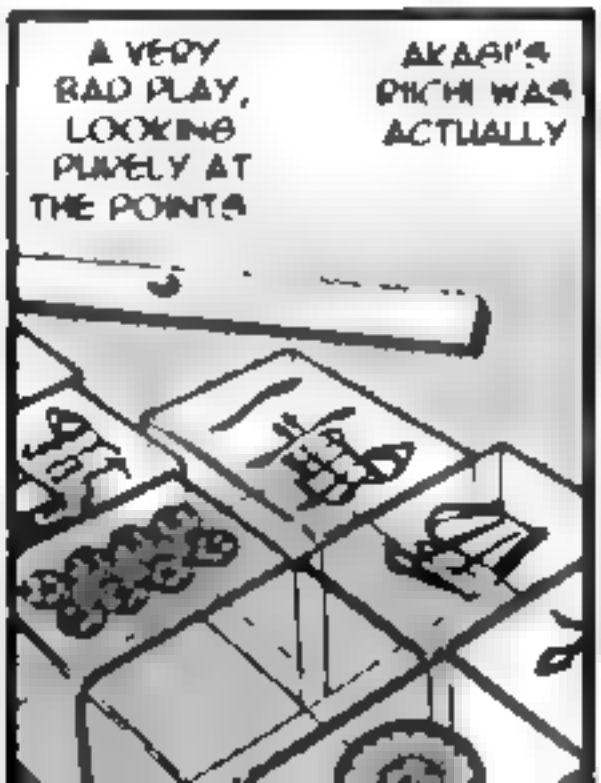

I WAS COMPLETELY MANIPULATED


DAM-MIT ...

THAT RICHI WAS PRACTICALLY SCREAMING SUSPICION!
LOOKING BACK ON IT, IT'S SO OBVIOUS!

WHY COULDN'T I SENSE THAT?!

WITH A HANEMAN OR BETTER HAND
RIGHT BEFORE IT, I WOULD HAVE NEEDED TO OVER-TAKE HIM


A VERY BAD PLAY, LOOKING PURELY AT THE POINTS
AKAGI'S RICHI WAS ACTUALLY

JUST A MANGAN OR BETTER COULD DO IT!

BUT WITH THE RIICHI, HE PUSHED HIMSELF CLOSER INTO RANGE FOR ME...

IT WAS DAN-GLING RIGHT IN FRON' OF ME

DOING THAT, HE MUST HAVE HAD SOME SORT OF ULTERIOR MOTIVE!

IT WAS SO DAMN OBVIOUS

GOD DAM-MIT

AND WITH THAT ...

IT SEEMED LIKE A CLOSE MATCH, BUT, AT THE END, AKAGI HAD 43,200 POINTS AS OPPOSED TO WASHIZU'S 32,700...

THE DIFFER-ENCE BETWEEN THE TWO WAS OVER 10,000 POINTS!

RE-SUL-TED-LY ...

AKAGI AND WASHIZU'S SECOND MATCH DRAWS TO A CLOSE.

WASHIZU	32,700 POINTS ➡	+3
	2ND PLACE UMA BONUS ➡	+10
	TOTAL	+13
AKAGI	43,200 POINTS ➡	+13
	1ST PLACE UMA BONUS ➡	+30
	TOP-RANKED PLAYER BONUS ➡	+20
	TOTAL	+63

AFTER THE UMA POINT BONUSES ARE ADDED,

AKAGI LEADS WASHIZU BY 50 POINTS!

HAS MANAGED TO WRENCH AN ADDITIONAL 16 MILLION YEN FROM WASHIZU IN BONUS PAYMENTS!

ALSO, AKAGI, IN THIS SECOND MATCH,

TRANSLATE INTO 50 MILLION YEN!

THESE 50 POINTS

HIS GRAND TOTAL UP TO THIS POINT A-MOUNTS TO

118.5 MILLION YEN!

MEANS THAT HE'S MADE HIS VERY FIRST 100 MILLION OF THE GAME!

THAT COMBINED WITH THE FIRST ROUND'S 52.5 MILLION YEN.

THIS ADDED TO THE PREVIOUS AMOUNT MAKES FOR A SUB-TOTAL OF 66 MILLION YEN!

HOW-EVER ...

HE LETS HIS 1100 CCS OF BLOOD REMAIN IN THE BEAKERS ...

HE DENIES THE RIGHT TO TRANS-FER ANY BLOOD BACK TO HIMSELF!

ONCE AGAIN, AKAGI REFUSES ...

HE REFUSES TO EASE THIS TENSE SITUATION EVEN SLIGHTLY!

HE WILL DIE, RIGHT THEN AND THERE... AND YET ...

AT THAT LEVEL, IF HE GETS HIT BY A MANGAN HAND...

WHY IS THAT ...?

.....

.....

...

DOING THIS WON'T EVEN BENEFIT YOU THE SLIGHTEST BIT!

WHY WON'T YOU GET ANY OF YOUR BLOOD BACK AT ALL?!

HM- HM- HMM ...

AKAGI ...

WHY ARE YOU STILL DOING THIS...

THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT.

THINK BACK TO THAT LAST ROUND ...

AS AN EX-AM-PLE ...

HUH ...?

.....

PAVED THE ROAD TOWARDS MY VICTORY.

IN IT, THE FACT THAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY DENIED THE RIGHT TO TRANSFER BLOOD BACK ...

MY HAND WAS IN SERIOUS PERIL.

AT THE START OF THE LAST ROUND,

NEED-LESS TO SAY ...

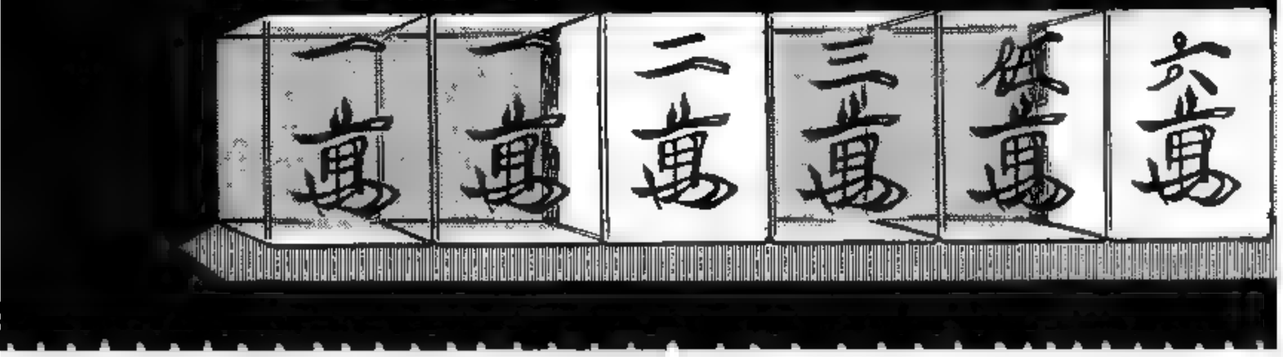
IT ... IT DID ...?

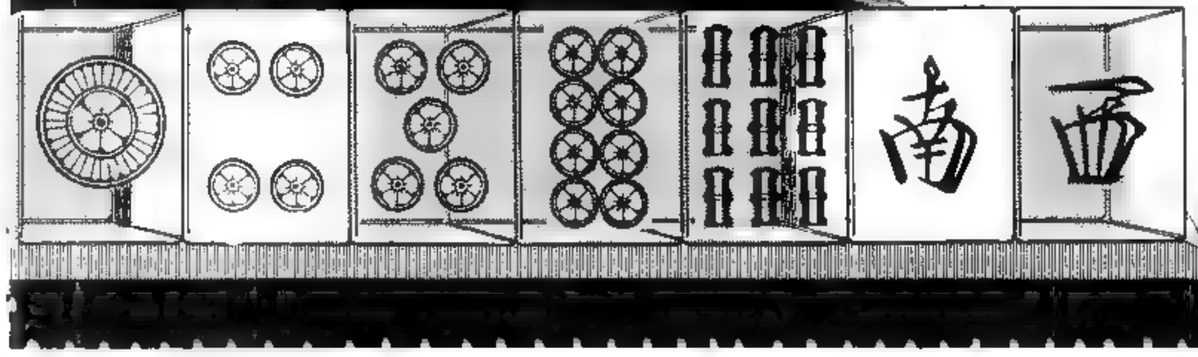
THAT CURSED TILE THAT I COULDN'T QUITE SHAKE OFF.

AND THAT WAS DUE TO ...

THE SINGLE TILE THAT I WAS TOTALLY UNABLE TO SAFELY GET RID OF FROM MY HAND!

THE DORA, XIA!





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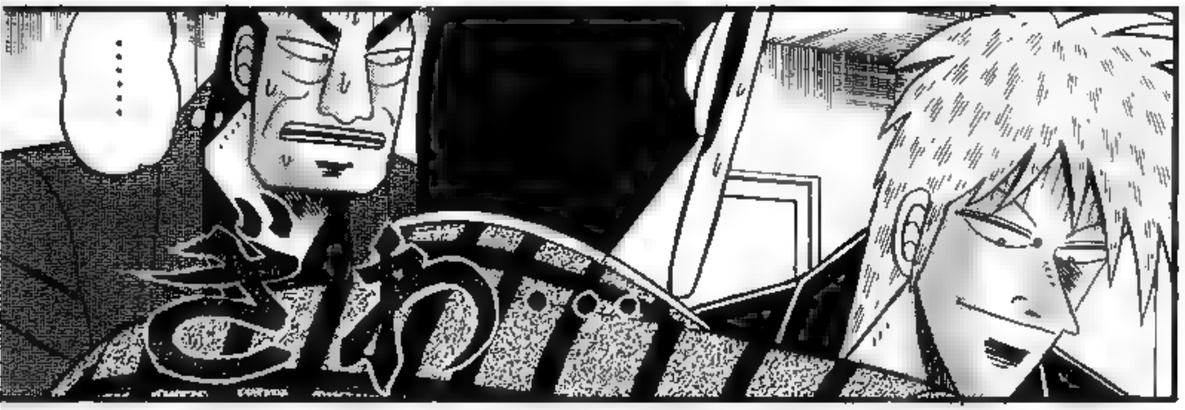


I WAS TOTALLY AT THE MERCY OF THAT DORA, THE XIA...

MY HAND WAS FROZEN SOLID BY THAT ONE TILE...

THAT ONE TILE ...

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THE DORA WAS ALSO WASHIZU'S SEAT WIND!

AND SO, IN ORDER TO WIN ...

THE REAL INDICATIVE PLAY CAME ON THE 7TH TURN!

WELL, THE CHI ON THE 8-PIN AND THE PON ON THE HATSU CAN BE SAFELY IGNORED AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED ...

HM-HMM ...

SLIP UP ...?

I NEEDED HIS HELP ... I NEEDED WASHIZU TO SLIP UP!

BUT, I COULDN'T DO THAT ALL BY MYSELF.

WHAT I NEEDED TO DO WAS TO DEFROST MY HAND AND FREE IT...

A MISTAKE AS PLAIN AS DAY.

HE DIS-CARDED THE 3-PIN ...

THE PON ON THE 1-PIN!

ENDED UP WITH THIS TENPAI.

WITH THAT CALL, WASHI-ZU

THOSE TILES WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECT FOR HON ITSU!

THE PAIR OF 1-PINS AND THE LONE 3-PIN...

WAITING ON CHANTA TILES WAS A BAD DECISION.

WITH THAT HAND ...

HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE LIKELY TO GET A WIN!

IF HE TOOK THAT ...

HE DID SO, PUTTING IT FIRST ...

HE DID, ANYWAY.

HE RUSHED TO GET TO TENPAI. HE DIDN'T NEED TO, BUT, TO GET A QUICK WIN ...

A VERY POOR CHOICE ...

HE WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE WITH THAT FLASHY BUT UNLIKELY TENPAI!

IF HE'D THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LITTLE BIT MORE,

HE PRIORITIZED THE QUICK TENPAI THAT HE COULD SEE EASILY.

THE REA-SON IS SIM-PLE ...

HE FELT PRES-SURED.

WHERE?

BUT IN REALITY, HE DID GET LED ASTRAY TO AN IMPRESSIVE, BUT INEFFECTIVE, TENPAI... THOUGH, THAT BEGS A QUESTION...

WHERE DID DID THAT IMPATIENT, EVEN FOOLISH, MOVE COME FROM?

IN THE END ...

HE WAS PRESSURED BY MY REFUSAL TO TRANSFUSE BLOOD!

THE MADNESS STEMMING FROM MY APATHY TOWARDS HOLDING ON TO THE MOST PRECIOUS THING I OWN... MY LIFE.

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT MY INSANITY DID THE TRICK...

WHA ...?!

TO PUT IT INTO WORDS ...

HIS FEAR BEGAN TO EMERGE FROM DEEP WITHIN HIS SUBCON-SCIOUS...

WASHIZU WAS DISTURBED BY THAT SIMPLE FACT...

THINGS LIKE THAT.

FEAR THAT I COULD ACTUALLY TAKE HIS LIFE...

AFTER SEEING ME SAY "I DON'T CARE IF I DIE OR NOT" THROUGH MY ACTIONS...

BUT TO FEAR FOR HIS OWN LIFE!

WASHIZU COULD NOT HELP HIMSELF ...

.....

HE PROBABLY HASN'T FIGURED THAT PART OUT YET...

.....

OF COURSE ...

IN-STEAD ...

HIS FEAR LIKELY MANI-FESTED IN,

VERY MINISCULE.

PROBABLY BECAUSE HIS FEAR IS STILL IN VERY SMALL QUANTITIES ...

HM-HM-HMM ...

HUH...

WASHIZU MISREAD HIS OWN EMOTIONS.

OR OF CONTEMPT TOWARDS ME...

A FEELING OF IMPA-TIENCE...

AND IN FACT, IT WAS WHAT OPENED UP A PATH FOR ME...

A VERY VALUABLE CHANCE!

THAT MISTAKE OF A CHOICE WAS THE OUTCOME.

HIS MENTAL BALANCE TOPPLED OVER....

AND IN THE END ...

AND YET, STILL ...

TO BE RID OF THAT DASTARDLY XIA THAT WAS HOLDING UP MY HAND!

IT GAVE ME JUST THE TOOLS I NEEDED ...

AL-LOWED MY HAND TO

FINALLY ADVANCE!

THE TENPAI THAT MY INSANITY PRO-VOKED ...

TO THAW AND MOVE FORWARD!

THAT SINGLE PLAY ALLOWED MY FROZEN HAND...

HIS PAIR OF DORA LOST ALL MEANING ...

AND MY XIA BECAME THE ONE WITH ALL THE POWER!

AND, AT THE EXACT SAME TIME ...

WITH THIS VERY EFFECTIVE BLUFF!

WITH IT, I WAS ABLE TO TRICK WASHIZU RIGHT BEFORE HIS EYES...

CHAPTER 92 - OPERATION

第92話 操作

.....

Gah...

I'D LIKE TO HAVE THEM ANSWERED, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

I HAVE A FEW QUEST-TIONS, AS WELL...

ABOUT THAT XIA YOU HAD ...

DON'T JUST SKIP AROUND!

THERE ARE STILL THINGS ABOUT THAT MATCH THAT YOU HAVEN'T EXPLAINED YET!

YOU'RE TALKING LIKE IT WAS ALL PART OF YOUR STRATE-GY, BUT...

HOW DID THAT WORK INTO YOUR STRATEGY ...?

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

WAIT.

I MEAN, YOU JUST SUDDENLY GOT RID OF IT AFTER KEEPING IT FOR SO LONG...

A BLUFF ...?

FIRST OF ALL, THE XIA THAT YOU HAD FROM THE START ...

HE COULD CALL IT FOR XIA, DORA 3 ...

AN INSTANT MANGAN HAND.

THAT HE HAD A PAIR OF XIAS RIGHT AT THE START ...

IF WE SUPPOSE THAT HE HAD TWO OF THE DORA XIA ...

PLAY THE XIA RIGHT OFF THE BAT?

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU COULDN'T ...

HOW ...

THERE'S SOME-THING I DON'T QUITE GET...

BUT YOU KNOW THAT ...

I'M SAYING IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GET IT OUT OF THE WAY!

IF IT WAS BEFORE THEY STARTED TO BUILD UP...

THAT IS, IF YOU ONLY HAD ONE XIA TO WORRY ABOUT...

IF IT TURNED OUT THAT HE ONLY HAD ONE OF THEM ...

BUT ...

IT'S ONLY REASON-ABLE TO BE RELUC-TANT...

I CAN SEE WHY YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME HESI-TATION TO DEAL IT...

IT WAS OBVIOUSLY RISKY TO PLAY IT ...

PLUS, IT WAS THE DORA, AS WELL AS WASHIZU'S SEAT WIND!

WE KNEW THAT WASHIZU HAD AT LEAST ONE OF THE TILE...

OF COURSE ...

THE XIA, THAT IS ...

IT'S LIKE YOU KNEW FOR A FACT ...

FROM THE WAY YOU SAY IT ...

SIMPLY ESSEN-TIAL!

STILL, IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION ... DEFINITELY!

AND YET ...

...THAT WASHIZU'S XIA WAS PART OF A PAIR FROM THE VERY START OF THE MATCH!

SO HOW DID YOU KNOW ?!

HE HADN'T EVEN DEALT ONE TILE AT THAT POINT!

I MEAN ...

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!

AND SO I NEED TO KNOW...

HOW?!

REALLY ... WHAT I SAW WAS MORE THAN E-NOUGH ...

HM... HM- HM- HMM ...

OHBI-SAN ...

WASHIZU ALREADY HAD DEALT SEVERAL TILES.

I'D HAD THE CHANCE TO SEE WASHIZU'S DISCARDS MANY TIMES OVER THE WHOLE SESSION.

...

OVER THE SECOND HANCHAN ...

HUH ...?!

WELL, AT LEAST ...

IT'S PRETTY EASY TO CATCH SIGHT OF THE FLOW ...

HMM-HM...

THAT... THAT CAN'T BE...!

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE MATCH ARE THERE FOR ALL TO SEE.

THAT INFOR-MATION CAN,

THEN,

BE APPLIED TO WASHIZU.

WITH A HANDLE ON THE REACHES OF HIS NATURAL-BORN LUCK...

SINCE IT WAS THE LAST GAME OF THE MATCH...

THERE'S NO WAY IT WOULD SIMPLY END QUIETLY.

WITH THAT IN MIND,

IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE DORA

WAS ALSO HIS WIND TILE.

AND THAT THE TILES FOR THAT WIND AND DORA, THE XIA,

WERE DRAWN TO HIM LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME.

JUST PART OF HIS LUCK.

WITH ALL OF THOSE FACTORS, IT'S NO LONGER A COINCIDENCE ...

OHGI-SAN...

I DROVE A STAKE INTO MY HAND WITH MY OWN XIA.

TO TOP IT ALL OFF, HIS LUCK...

WERE THE GAME TO PRO-CEED NOR-MALLY ...

THAT TILE WAS INDICATIVE THAT THE HEAVENS HAD TAKEN WASHIZU'S SIDE IN THIS BATTLE ...

WAS SENT DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS TO AID WASHIZU AND HELP HIM ON HIS WAY TO A VICTORY.

THAT DORA, XIA,

EH ...?!

THE GAME WOULD BE HANDED TO WASHIZU, NO PROBLEM.

A MES-SEN-GER!

IT WAS AN ASSASSIN WITH A TICKING TIME BOMB.

THAT TILE WOULD BE THE DEATH OF ME IF IT WASN'T HANDLED WITH CARE.

YEAH.

Washizu'd win.?

THOUGH, I'D BE PRAC-TICALLY HANDED 100 MILLION IF IT SUCCEEDED ...

HE'D HIT MANGAN, AND IT WOULD ALL BE OVER.

HE WOULD CALL IT FOR SURE.

IF I RUSHED IN TO PLAY IT,

AND JUST KEEPING IT AROUND WAS SLOWLY SUCKING THE LIFE OUT OF ME!

AND SO, I NEEDED ...

A VERY TRICKY TILE TO HANDLE CORRECTLY ...

.....

BUT CALLING THAT MANY TILES...

SURE, IT MAY HAVE SOUNDED LIKE A BAD THING THAT HE WAS ALREADY IN TENPAI...

AND THAT WAS IT!

TO WAIT FOR WASHIZU TO MAKE ANY KIND OF ERROR ...

RESTRICTED HIS HAND.

THROWING IT OUT AT ANY OTHER POINT WOULD JUST BE USELESS.

I WAS UNABLE TO DEAL IT!

WHEN HIS HAND BECAME LOCKED IN PLACE ...

UP UNTIL THAT POINT ...

I HAD TO DO IT IN THAT ORDER ...

BEFORE I COULD, I NEEDED TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE I COULD SAFELY GET RID OF IT.

WITH NO CHANCE FOR RECO-VERY.

OR ELSE I WOULO FALL VICTIM TO HIM ...

来る…

ドカ…
ドカ…

WASHIZU HAD ANOTHER OORA XIA
BOTH TILES IN THE PAIR WERE IN HIS HAND FROM THE START!
THEN... THAT MEANS ...
WAIT ... HOLD ON!
.....

THEN, DON'T YOU THINK ...
THAT IT WAS RATHER STRANGE ...
SURE AM.
AND YOU'RE TELLING US THAT YOU KNEW THAT FOR SURE?!
I MEAN, HE DID ...

...WHEN YOU DREW THE PEI ON THE TENTH TURN ...

BUT YOU TOOK THAT RISK, REFUSING TO DEAL THE XIA FROM YOUR HAND!

TO A DOUBLE ANKO WAIT WITH THE DORA AND SOMETHING ELSE!

ON THE NEXT TURN, THERE WAS A RISK OF WASHIZU CHANGING HIS WAIT ...

IT'S LIKE YOU WERE AN AMA-TEUR...

SUZUKI DREW HIS OWN DORA XIA...

ON THE NINTH TURN,

AND DISCARDED IT RIGHT AFTERWARDS ?!

TO PUT AN END TO IT...

RIGHT THEN AND THERE,

THE ONLY REASON YOU DIDN'T PLAY IT ...

YOU KNOW, TO ME, IT SEEMS LIKE...

YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN RID OF IT THERE,

WITHOUT ANY PROB-LEMS!

I MEAN, THINK ABOUT IT ...

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN RID OF IT THERE!

AND YET WASHIZU DIDN'T CALL IT ...

WASHIZU COULD HAVE HAD A SINGLE WAIT ON THE DORA!

WOULD HAVE FREED YOU FROM THE RISK OF A DUAL ANKO WAIT...

EVEN THOUGH PLAYING IT THERE ...

WAS BE-CAUSE ...

THAT'S WHAT HELD YOU BACK, RIGHT?

IF IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THIS, IT COULD EASILY BREAK MANGAN...

... AH ...!

THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED HIM TO THINK.

AND THEN, IF IT WASN'T THAT ...

I NEEDED TO TAKE THAT DISK FOR ONE MORE TURN.

BUT .

HE WOULD BE INCLINED TO SWITCH TO A DUAL ANKO WAIT IF HE COULD...

WOULD PROVE EFFECTIVE!!

JUST A LITTLE BIT LATER, THAT TRICK...

urgh ..!

WASHIZU THOUGHT I HADN'T READ INTO HIS HAND ENTIRELY YET ...

AND DELAYED THE DEALING OF THE XIA FOR ONE MORE TURN...

HMM ...

BECAUSE I HESI-TATED ...

S... SO...!

HE MIS-UNDER-STOOD.

HE THOUGHT I WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSI-BILITY OF A SINGLE WAIT...

YOU BEHAVED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ON PURPOSE...?!

YOU ...

OHGI-SAN ...

HEH-HEH ...

PEOPLE WHO SEE ARE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE ...

AND ALSO ...

WHEN THEY REALLY CAN!

TO PRETEND THEY CAN'T SEE ...

TO BE ABLE TO PRETEND THEY CAN SEE, EVEN WHEN THEY CAN'T...

...IF THEY WANT OTHERS TO KNOW THAT THEY CAN SEE...

JUST BY THE WAY I DEALT THAT ONE TILE ...

FREELY ...

THE ENEMY'S THOUGHTS ...

WERE EASILY MANIPU-LATED!

さわ…

CHAPTER 93 - WILL

第93話 自在

さわ…

AND ESPECIALLY WASHIZU..!

IN OTHER WORDS ...

HE EVEN GOT ME, AS I WATCHED FROM BEHIND..!

IN THE END ...

THIS KID MANIPULATED ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE ...

I CAN NOT BELIEVE IT ...

THIS GUY ...

HE DIDN'T GET SIDETRACKED FOR EVEN A MOMENT ...!

HE PRETENDED TO BE ORDINARY ...

HE PURPOSELY CHOSE NOT TO!

IT WASN'T THAT HE COULDN'T DISCARD THE DORA XIA...

JUST BY NOT DEALING THAT ONE TILE!

HE EVEN FOOLED US ...

HE'S REALLY SOMETHING ELSE!

ARE JUST ORDINARY IN COM-PARISON ...

MAHJONG PLAYERS LIKE US ...

IN THE END ...

WELL, SOMETIMES WE GET AWAY FROM EVEN THAT, BUT...

AND HOW GOOD OUR LUCK IS WHEN WE PLAY

MOST OF US CAN ONLY FOCUS ON OUR OWN HANDS ...

AND YET, THIS MAN ...

OUR ANALYSIS IS USUALLY WAY OFF THE MARK... ALL OVER THE PLACE!

AT THE BEST!

ALL WE THINK ABOUT IS HOW TO WIN AGAINST OUR OPPONENTS ....

WE MAY AS WELL BE GUESSING

AS FOR GETTING INTO OUR OPPONENTS' HEADS...

EXTREMELY ABNORMAL ...!

THAT APPROACH TO GAMBLING IS ALREADY ...

HE USES PSYCHO-LOGICAL WARFARE ON THE OTHER SIDE ...!

BEYOND WHAT US NORMAL PEOPLE CAN DO ...

HE'S A DEMON ...!

ごわ…

UM
...

さわ…

CAN I ASK YOU ONE MORE THING, AKAGI?

EXCUSE ME... CAN I ...

……

さわ…

WELL... AT LEAST THAT YOU WERE CONFIDENT, ANYWAY ...

I GET HOW YOU KNEW ABOUT THE XIAS ...

IT'S NOT MUCH ...

AH, NO...

SOMETHING ELSE?

I GET THAT MUCH, AT LEAST ...

YOU KNEW TWO OF THE TILES IN HIS HAND FOR SURE...

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TILES IN WASHIZU'S HAND?

WITH AN ATAMA HANE ...

IN THE END ...

SINCE YOU CAUGHT HIM BY SUR-PRISE ...

YOU TOOK THE 3-MAN THAT SUZUKI WAS FEEDING TO WASHIZU ...

SINCE ...

WHICH MEANS ...

YOU HAD TO HAVE KNOWN THAT WASHIZU HAD A SINGLE WAIT ON THE 3-MAN...

XIA
XIA
1-MAN
3-MAN

YOU ALSO KNEW THAT HIS HAND WAS LIKE THIS THE TURN BEFORE:

SO, HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL OF THAT?!

YOU HAD TO HAVE KNOWN ABOUT HIS CLOSED WAIT FOR THE 2-MAN!

HUH?

YOU MEAN IT'S NOT OBVIOUS ...?

HM-HMM ...

AND STILL HADN'T DEALT INTO WASHIZU'S HAND ...

HE HAD SO MANY PINZU TILES ...

IT'S JUST THAT SUZUKI ...

OH, NO...!

WHICH MEANS ...

A PINZU HON ITSU HAND ...

AND THAT MEANS THAT WASHIZU PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE ...

HOW DID YOU PIN DOWN THAT EXACT WAIT OUT OF ALL THE CHANTA WAITS...?

I'M WITH YOU UP TO THERE, BUT ...

YASU-OKA-SAN ...

WASHIZU DEFINITELY HAD SOME KIND OF CHANTA HAND...!

IT HAD TO BE CHANTA ...!

HUH ...?

THE ANSWER IS STARING YOU IN THE FACE.

IF YOU'VE GOTTEN THAT FAR ...

YASUOKA-SAN... YOU'RE ALMOST THERE.

THERE'S ANOTHER WAY.

READING INTO WASHIZU'S HAND ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW...

THAT GAME ...

?.....

HIS ONE AIM WAS TO PREPARE TILES WITH WHICH HE COULD DEAL INTO WASHIZU'S HAND.

SUZUKI'S AIM WAS NOT TO FINISH HIS OWN HAND ...

WITH THAT IN MIND,

CAN GIVE YOU A GOOD IDEA OF WHAT'S IN WASHIZU'S HAND.

LOOKING INTO SUZUKI'S HAND, TOO,

SEE, IN THIS GAME, SUZUKI ...

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT WHAT HIS HAND WAS LIKE AT THAT MOMENT ...!

WASHIZU WAITED TO HAVE HIM DEAL IT.

EVEN ONCE SUZUKI DREW THE XIA,

THERE, TOO ...

THAT HE WAS AIMING FOR A CHANTA HAND.

THAT THEY WERE PREPARATIONS TO DEAL INTO THE PINZU HON ITSU HAND THAT WASHIZU WAS BUILDING AT FIRST.

THAT WOULD INDI-CATE ...

OVER HALF OF THEM ARE PINZU AND WORD TILES ...

ALL OF THESE WAITS ARE OUT.

HE ALSO COULDN'T HAVE WAITS AROUND THEM.

SO HE COULDN'T BE WAITING ON THOSE TILES.

THE TERMINALS HE HAD WERE THE 1-SOU, 9-SOU, AND 9-MAN ...

THERE ARE A LOT OF 1 AND 9 TILES IN HIS HAND, AS WELL ...

WHICH INDI-CATES ...

THERE ON THE LEFT SIDE.

AS FOR THE OTHERS ...

NO WAY

COULDN'T HE HAVE 2-SOU, 3-SOU,

7-SOU, OR 8-SOU

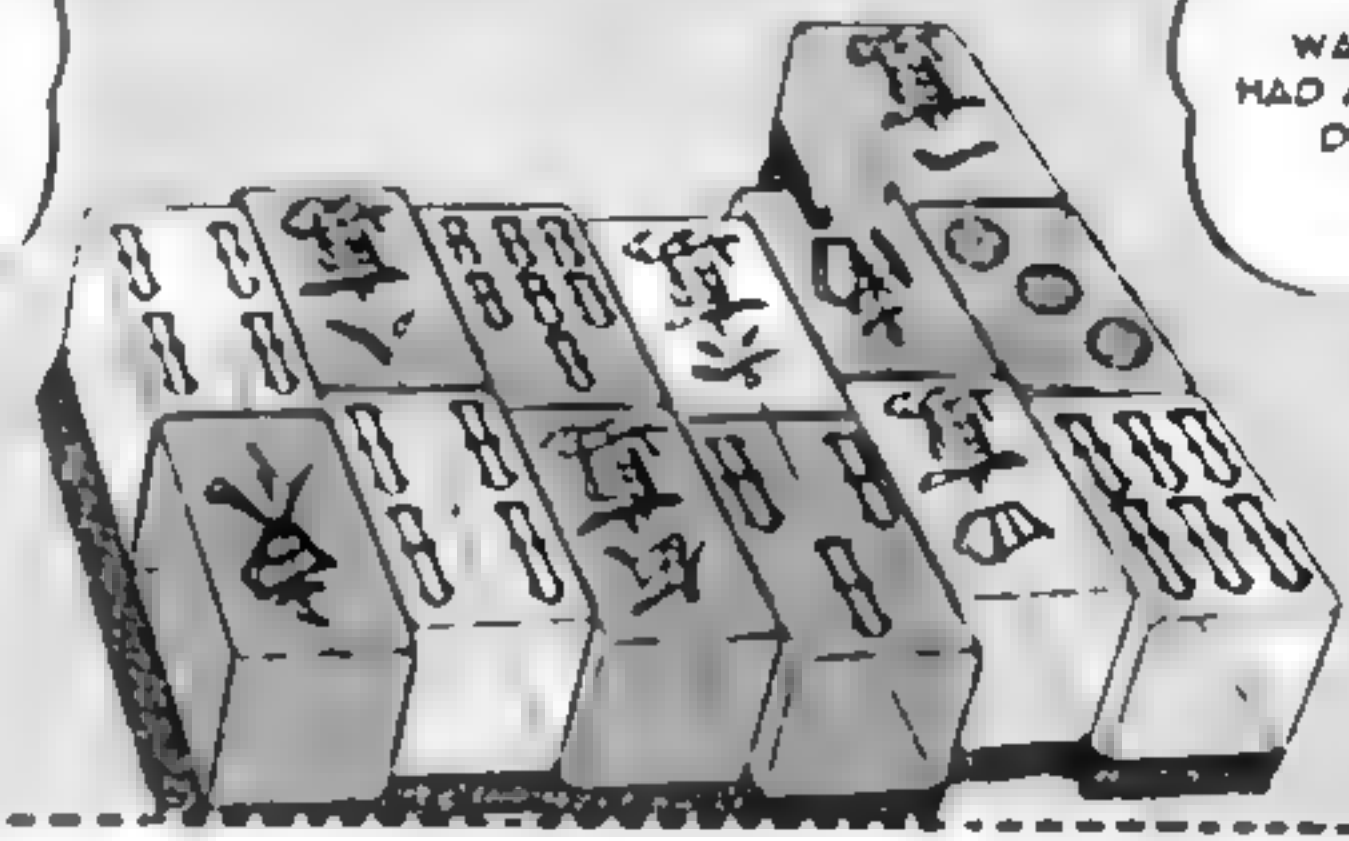
WAITS?

THE REST OF THE POSSIBILITIES REVOLVE AROUND THE

1-MAN-

SINCE HE HAD TO BE GOING FOR CHANTA.

THE 4 AND 6 OF BOTH SOUZU AND MANZU



WASHIZU HAD ALREADY DEALT

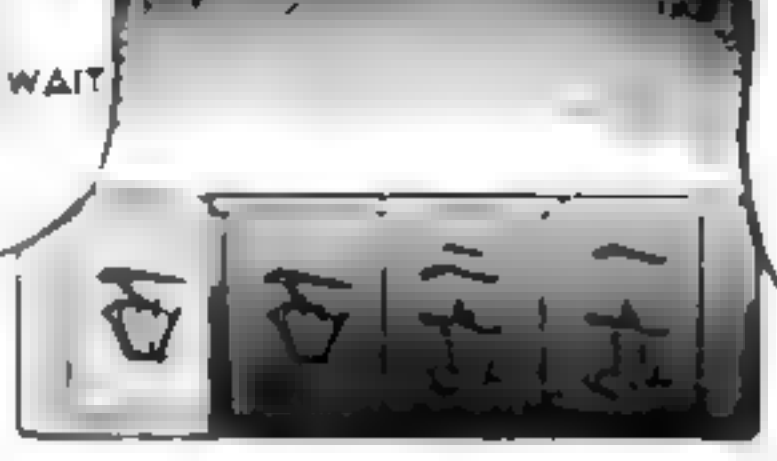
IT WOULD BE FUURITEN

A . . . WAIT

OR A . . . WAIT

IN THE END, HIS HAND CAN ONLY BE

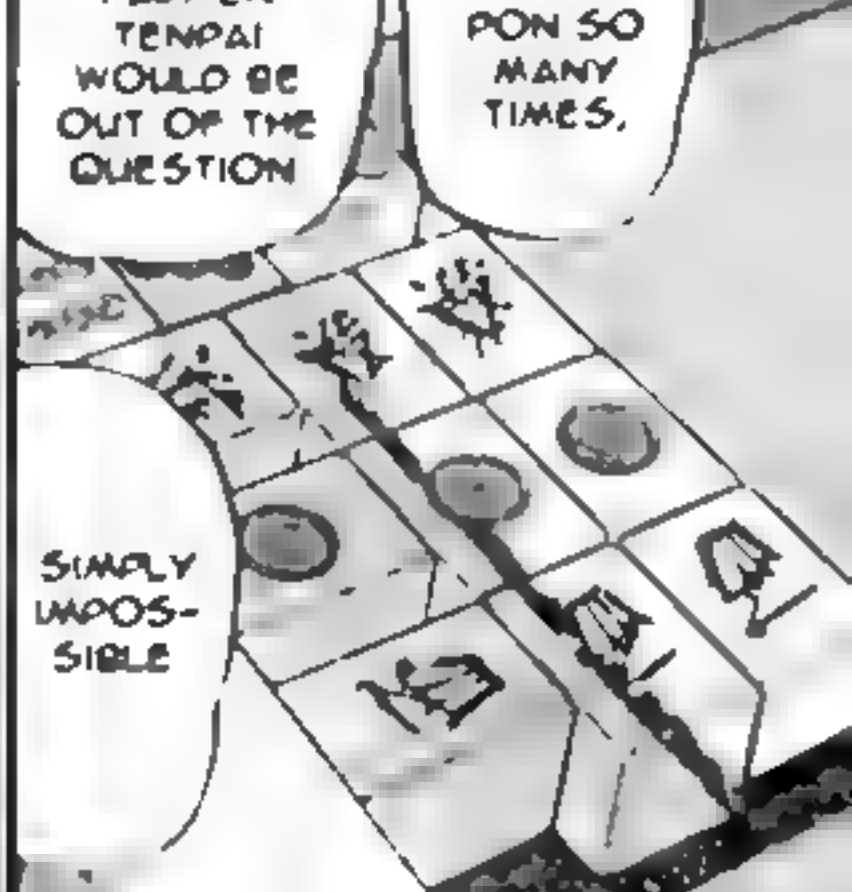
THOSE ARE THE OP-TIONS



HAVING A FUURITEN TENPAI WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION

HE CALLED PON SO MANY TIMES,

SIMPLY IMPOS-SIBLE



AND BECAUSE OF THAT ...

WASHIZU'S WAIT HAD TO BE THE

1-MAN 3-MAN WAIT...

THE WAIT WAS RIGHT OUT.

AND SINCE THE OPAQUE 3-MAN WAS SAFELY IN MY HAND,

THE WAS STILL IN HIS HAND.

THE SEEMING-LY USE-LESS TILE,

SUZUKI ...

BECAUSE HE WAS IN THAT 1-3-MAN WAIT,

IN AND OF ITSELF, HOLDING ON TO THE

3-MAN HAS NO MEANING, BUT...

THE HATSU XIA DORA 3 HAND WASN'T ENOUGH ...

HE'D NEED A HANEMAN OR BETTER HAND...

CONSI-DERING THAT, IF HE WANTED TO OVERTAKE ME,

HE'D NEED MORE.

IF I DECLARED RIICHI IN THE GAME, LIKE I DID,

THAT IN MIND,

WASHIZU CAN DEFINITELY STILL WAIT FOR IT.

IT'S STILL ONE OF WASHIZU'S TILES ...

WITH A SINGLE WAIT.

WOULD BE A MANGAN HAND.

AND IF NOT,

ALL HE'D NEED TO OVER-TAKE ME THEN ...

AND YET ...

THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE KEPT IT ...

HE COULD WIN OFF THAT 3-MAN AND STILL BREAK MANGAN

IF THE NEW DORA WAS IN HIS HAND,

IF HE GOT ANOTHER 發 HATSU

OR SOMETHING ELSE THAT WOULD GIVE HIM A KAN,

ENDED UP COSTING HIM.

THAT PLAN OF HIS ...

YASU-ONA-SAN

NONE-THE-LESS

AH ..!

BUT IT'S REALLY NOT

HA HA HA

1-MAN

3-MAN

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT THE STRUC-TURE OF HIS HAND WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART

HM- HM- HMM

THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING AT THE TIME WAS WASHIZU'S MINDSET!

WHERE I WAS HOPING FOR THE 3-MAN TO LEAVE SUZUKI'S HAND ...

LEADING UP TO THE DEAL WHERE I EXPECTED THINGS TO HAPPEN A CERTAIN WAY...

WHEN I DECLARED RIICHI ...

IT'S HARD TO TELL FOR SURE...

HE COULD HAVE GONE TOWARDS MY EXPECTATION OR STAYED WITH THE TENPAI HE HAD... MAKE NO MISTAKE, HIS MINDSET WAS CRUCIAL TO MY PLAN.

...

DEPENDING ON HOW HE WAS THINKING AT THE TIME, HE COULD HAVE GONE EITHER WAY...

IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD BEGIN TO DOUBT ME.

EVEN STILL ...

INSTEAD ...

QUITE DIFFICULT, EVEN AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME.

IT'S HARD TO GET A GOOD GRASP OF HIS MIND-SET...

THAT HE WOULD FEEL SURE TO WIN.

THIS STRUCTURE IS SO ADVAN-TAGEOUS ...

THOSE THOUGHTS WOULD TRIUMPH.

THE LURE OF VICTORY! ... THAT HE WOULD WIN...

?...

BEGAN TO HUNGER FOR THE VICTORY HE FELT WAS RIGHT WITHIN HIS GRASP.

WASHI-ZU...

AND BECAUSE HE FELT SO DOMINANT ...

HE BECAME ASSURED THAT HE WOULD WIN...

BECAUSE WASHIZU HAS ALWAYS BEEN A WINNER IN HIS LONG LIFE,

SO TO SPEAK.

YEAH.

HUNGER ...?

HE KNOWS WHAT A SURE WIN FEELS LIKE AS OPPOSED TO A SIMPLE ADVANTAGE.

BUT COULD NOT BE MORE DIFFER-ENT.

AN ADVANTAGE AND VICTORY FEEL VERY SIMILAR...

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...

?

IT CAN CREATE THE MEANS ...

FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO WIN, AS WELL.

DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING ALL BY ITSELF.

JUST HAVING AN ADVAN-TAGE

MEA-NING...

OR SAFETY FROM DEFEAT,

IT CAN ONLY BE 100% CERTAIN ...

WHETHER WINNING MEANS SELF-PROFIT,

THAT'S WHY WINNERS WILL ALWAYS TRY THEIR VERY BEST TO WIN.

WASHIZU IS NO EXCEPTION.

WINNERS IN LIFE KNOW THAT CONCEPT LIKE THE BACK OF THEIR HANDS.

ONCE YOU'VE SECURED THE WIN!

ごわ‥ごご

わ‥

ごご

HE IS A WINNER, AND SO HE TRIES MUCH HARDER THAN MOST!

SHOWING RESTRAINT CAN SOMETIMES BE BENIFICIAL ...!

BUILT AN UNSHAKABLE EMPIRE IN THIS FINE LAND...

OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE ...

YOU'RE TELLING ME TO STEP DOWN?

DON'T BE STUPID.

IF YOU QUIT NOW, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE LOST ABOUT 100 MILLION ...

IT SEEMS TO ME ...

I GET THIS HUGE DEMONIC VIBE FROM HIM...!

HIS MERE APPEARANCE SHAKES ME TO THE CORE...

THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY, THAT MAN ...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

WASHI-ZU-SAMA ...

GO INTO THE THIRD ROUND, OR END IT HERE ...?

WASHIZU-SAMA...

.....

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO SIMPLY ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN?!

AND IF I LOSE, I MUST LEAVE JAPAN FOR GOOD!

THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN...!

I SHALL NEVER ALLOW IT...

CHAPTER 94 - PREMONITION

第94話 予感

AKAGI
VS
WASHIZU

THIRD
MATCH

OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THESE TWO,

DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND MATCHES

WASHIZU FELL BEHIND AKAGI IN SCORE ...!

HE MUST NOT LOSE ANY MORE THAN HE ALREADY HAS...!

HE MUST WIPE AWAY THAT DISGRACE OF A POINT DIFFER-ENCE!

IN THIS THIRD MATCH, HE BADLY WANTS TO WIN!

WASHIZU'S EMPERIAL PRIDE WILL NOT ALLOW HIM TO LOSE ...!

IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...

GRADUALLY, FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY ARE STARTING TO SEEP INTO THEIR MINDS...

IN OTHER WORDS ...

BE-SIDES ...

A TOTAL OF 118.5 MILLION YEN!

WASHIZU HAS LOST MUCH OF HIS MONEY OVER THE PREVIOUS TWO ROUNDS ...

THAT WEIGHT IS CLOSING IN ON THEM!

THIS GAMBLE'S INCREDIBLE YEN-TO-CC RATE...

A CLEAR PORTRAIT TO THE INEVITABLE FACE...

COULD EASILY BE WASHED AWAY

OF RUIN

HIS LIFE SAVINGS OF 500 MILLION YEN

LOSS AFTER LOSS, THE DISGRACE OF DEFEAT IS PILING UP

THE OMINOUS TIDES COULD KILL HIM TODAY!

WASHIZU COULD DIE...

THIS RAGING TORRENT THE FLOOD WATERS ARE RISING

IT IS RUSHING OVER WASHIZU'S FEET AS IT RISES!

THERE IS OVER-FLOW

THE FLESH THE ASHIKAGA IS VERY PRECIOUS

IT IS NEARLY AT ITS BREAKING POINT

I WILL DIE IF IT PULLS ME IN!

IT IS THE THIRD MATCH.

I MUST DRAIN THE WATER BEFORE IT GETS TO THAT POINT...!

AND NOW ...

THE FIRST DEALER IS YASUOKA.

...

THE DEFINING THIRD MATCH!!

IT HAS BEGUN ...!

SOME-HOW ...

WASHIZU WILL TRY TO...

IN THIS EAST FIRST ROUND ...

REVERSE THE FLOW OF THE GAME!

...
BUT
...

HE MUST SOME-HOW ESCAPE IF HE WANTS TO LIVE!

THE SECOND MATCH LEFT HIM IN A BAD SPOT...

AND WHAT'S MORE,

WASHIZU'S HAND IS IN BAD SHAPE ...

.....

FALLING INTO ARREARS ... AT HIS WIT'S END!

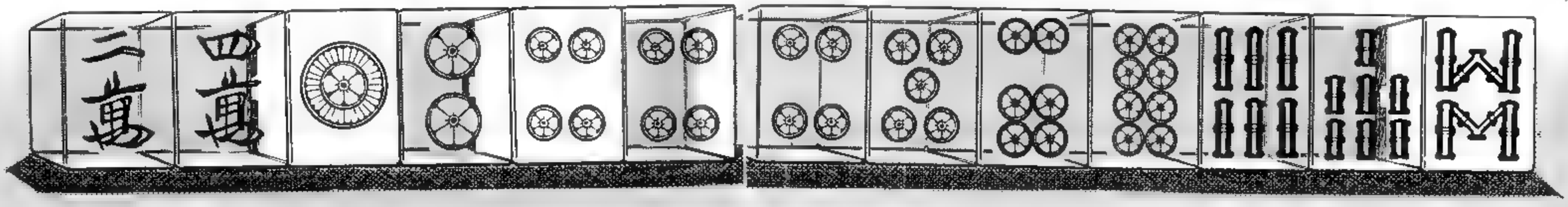
HE IS CAUGHT UP IN A WHIRL-POOL, AND SINKING FAST!

HIS DRAWS ARE USELESS ...!

IN STARK CON-TRAST ...

.....

AKAGI'S HAND IS LOOKING GOOD!



AKAGI DOES NOT LET UP!

AND YET ...

OF COURSE IT WILL ALLOW HIM TO GET AN EASY WIN THIS FIRST ROUND!

THAT HE COULD RELAX HIS GAME FOR EVEN A MOMENT!

AKAGI WAS NEVER IN SUCH A FAVORABLE POSITION ...

QUITE THE CON-TRARY ...

IN THE LAST ROUND OF THE PREVIOUS MATCH,

A THIRD-TURN II-SHAN-TEN!

HE ALREADY HAS 3 DORA TILES WOVEN INTO IT!

AKAGI HAS REDIRECTED THE FLOW OF THIS GAME TO HIS FAVOR!

HAS LEFT WASHIZU STANDING ON THE EDGE OF A RAGING TORRENT!

THAT CRISIS ...

THE CURSE PLACED ON THE DORA XIA...

HE IS FAR BEYOND THAT CASUAL PLAY!

HE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE IN THIS BATTLE

IF HE WASN'T... FROM THE START ...

THAT'S RIGHT ...!

WHERE HE RANKS UNDER WASHIZU, EVEN ONCE...

IF IT COMES TO THE POINT ...

IN THE TWO MATCHES UP TO NOW.

HE ALREADY LOST 1100 CCS ...

AND MORE-OVER ...

HE'LL DIE FOR SURE... NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

WITH THAT IN MIND ...

THAT'S BUT A STEP AWAY FROM THE LETHAL LIMIT OF 2000 CCS...

HE'LL HAVE HAD 1900 CCS DRAWN, ALL TOTALLED.

THAT MEANS THAT IF WASHIZU LANDS A MANGAN HAND OFF OF HIM...

IT'S WITH AKAGI RIGHT NOW,

BUT IT COULD FADE AWAY IN AN INSTANT ...!

THE FLOW NEVER STAYS WITH ONE PERSON FOR THE WHOLE GAME...

THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN PLAY COM-FORTA-BLY...

IN A DEATH-MATCH LIKE THIS,

HE COULD VERY WELL DIE THE VERY NEXT TIME HE DRAWS BLOOD...!

EVERY MOMENT, HE IS IN RISK OF AN UNTIMELY DEATH...!

WHAT AN AMAZING FEELING JUST CAME OVER ME ...!

I'LL HAVE ACHEIVED IT..!

I FEEL LIKE, IF I CAN KILL THIS MAN

THE HIGH POINT OF MY WHOLE LIFE...!

THE GREATEST MOMENT OF MY 75 YEARS ON THIS PLANET...

THIS MAN

TO TAKE THE LIFE OF AKAGI SHIGERU ...!!!!

I'LL MURDER HIM!!!

IT WOULD BE A FITTING END TO MY TIME IN JAPAN!

YES ...

I SHALL KILL THAT MAN ...

AND HE'LL BE ALL MINE!!!

JUST A BIT MORE BLOOD

I'M 1100 CCS CLOSER NOW...!

VERY APPRO-PRIATE!

I WANT TO OVER-TAKE HIM IN RANK.

I CAN DO IT ...

BUT RATHER ...

BUT I DON'T WANT TO WIN BY THE RATE ALONE...

IT HAS MADE IT FAR EASIER FOR ME TO BEAT HIM DOWN!

THIS BLOOD RATE HAS PROVEN EFFECTIVE

THAT'S A SURE THING..!

THAT WILL PROVE HOW SUPERIOR I AM TO HIM...

BUT THEN ...

THROUGH MY OWN ABILITY AND STRA-TEGY!

AKAGI MAKES THE FIRST STRIKE!

ON THE EIGHTH TURN ...

TSUMO.

HE EASILY THROWS THE FIRST BLOW!!

TSUMO, ITSU, DORA 3 ... HANEMAN!!

HE WAS THE FIRST!

GRH...

WHEN THE FLOW IS TURNED IN YOUR FAVOR!

THE KIND OF HAND THAT CAN ONLY BE SEEN...

HE CREATED THE BEST POSSIBLE SHAPE...

BY JUST GETTING RID OF THE TILES HE DIDN'T NEED!

THERE WERE NO WASTED DRAWS ...

IT'S NOT OVER YET.

GRR ...

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

IT'S JUST THE EAST FIRST ROUND ...

.....

JUST LOOKING AT THE BATTLE UP TO NOW...

IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT ...

NO ...

IS LIKE THE DEVIL INCARNATE!

THAT MAN ...

IT'S REALLY TOO BAD, BUT... THIS BRAT IS CLEARLY FAR MORE SKILLED THAN WASHIZU-SAMA...

HE JUST CASUALLY DREW A PERFECT HANEMAN TSUMO..!

HE'S STILL GOT A FIRM HOLD ON THE FLOW!

IN THIS THIRD ROUND, TOO ...

THIS WHOLE GAME HAS BEEN JUST UNBEARABLE!

THIS IS PAIN-FUL ...

ALL RIGHT.

WE'VE BEEN INJURED ..!!

CHAPTER 95 - LIGHTNING

第95話雷光

WASHIZU IS THE DEALER.

ゴ…

ト…

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ト…

EAST 2ND ROUND

……

COo

THIS DEALER ROUND COULD GO BY QUICKLY IF YOU'RE NOT CARE-FUL...

WASHIZU-SAMA... THIS TURN AS DEALER IS VERY IMPORTANT...!

IS STOP AKAGI FROM CHANGING THE WINDS AROUND!

AND THERE-FORE,

SO THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO ...

I'D GIVE IT ABOUT A 99% CHANCE.

AKAGI IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE FAVORED IN THIS MATCH, TOO...

OUR MAIN PRIORITY AT THE MOMENT ...

WE CAN'T JUST MESS AROUND ANY MORE!

WE SIMPLY HAVE TO!

BY ANY MEANS NE-CES-SARY!

IS TO MAKE ANY KIND OF WINNING HAND, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY 1500 OR 2000 POINTS!

... BUT STILL ...

RIGHT NOW, ANYONE WOULD THINK THAT IS TOO MUCH TO EXPECT ...

IT'S A NAÏVE THING TO WISH FOR ...

CAN HE REALLY DO EVEN THAT MUCH?

THINKING ABOUT IT JUST A BIT MORE ...

AKAGI ALREADY WON THE EAST FIRST ROUND...

WASHIZU IS IN A BAD SPOT.

THE FLOW OF THE GAME HAS SHOWN FAVOR TO HIM...

WHAT MAKES US THINK THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT NOW?

WE COULDN'T DO IT IN THE EAST FIRST ROUND...

WE CAN'T COUNT ON A MIR-ACLE.

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS...

COULD THIS BE WASHIZU'S MAGIC TOUCH ...?

HOW-EVER ...

A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY APPEARS!

THE ONLY THING LEFT ...

WITH THIS, HE MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO RETURN FIRE!

IS AKAGI'S HAND!

THE POTENTIAL FOR A TAN YAO, PINFU, SAN SHOKU HAND CAN BE SEEN IN IT!

WHILE IT DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE COMPLETED SET...

NOT BAD ...!

A WELL-SHAPED SAN SHAN TEN ...!

THAT HAND IS THE MAJOR CONCERN NOW!

THERE'S STILL SOME HOPE LEFT!

.....

IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING JUST YET...

WELL ...

THERE'S 4 OPAQUE TILES

.....

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...

WASHIZU'S ODDS ARE CONSIDERABLY GOOD!

IT LOOKS PRETTY BAD

FROM JUST A QUICK GLANCE AT IT ...

I CAN'T REALLY BE TOTALLY SURE, BUT ...

BUT STILL... MY BOSS...

HE CAN'T BE TOUCHED ...

THE AVERAGE PERSON CAN'T SO MUCH AS APPROACH HIS LEVEL!

ARE JUST STU-PEN-DOUS!

MY BOSS'S NATURAL LUCK AND CAPACITY...

OR HOW MUCH HE'S BACKED INTO A CORNER!

NO MATTER HOW HARD HE NEEDS TO STRUGGLE ...

HE ALWAYS MAKES IT OUT OF WHATEVER HE'S THROWN INTO!

SOME-HOW OR ANO-THER ...

IT'S THE SAME THING WITH THE VAMPIRIC MURDER CASES!

HE ALWAYS ESCAPES DANGER IN SOME WAY!

HE MADE IT OUT ALIVE!

HE WAS ABLE TO COMMIT THOSE CRIMES AND BE NO WORSE FOR WEAR!

IN THE END ...

THOUGH HE MAY HAVE LOST A SIZEABLE PART OF HIS FORTUNE,

HE ALWAYS HAS, AND ALWAYS WILL MAKE IT OUT ALIVE!

THAT'S JUST HOW MY BOSS HAS ALWAYS LIVED HIS LIFE!

THERE IS DE-FINITELY STILL A CHANCE!

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT ...

WASHIZU COMES FIRST, HANDS DOWN!

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PURE LUCK,

IS AKAGI, NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.

TRUE, THE ONE WITH MORE MAHJONG SKILL...

IS HIS GOD-GIVEN LUCK ...

ALL HE NEEDS TO USE

IN THAT SENSE ...

TO KILL THAT MAN, AKAGI SHIGERU ...!

CER-TAINLY ...

WITH THIS DRAW ...

WASHIZU GETS ANOTHER STEP CLOSER TO TENPAI

ON THE VERY NEXT TURN,

AS IF CONFIR-MING YOSHI-OKA'S THOUGHTS ...

9-SOU!

BUT ...

FOR RIGHT NOW, THE CRITICAL PART IS TO STAY AS DEALER.

SPEED IS MORE IMPORTANT.

WE CAN SETTLE FOR THE CHEAPER HAND, HERE.

THAT'S FINE ...

ON THE NEXT TURN ...

EVEN WITH THAT RATIONAL THOUGHT IN MIND,

BUT WITH IT ...

HIS TANYAO, PINFU, SAN SHOKU HAND

HAS JUST LOST TAN-YAO!

.....

RYAN SHAN TEN!

.....

HIS HAND IS PROGRES-SING, TO BE SURE, BUT...

THANKS TO THIS 2-SOU ANKOU.

WITH THAT, HIS CHANCES AT THE PINFU HAND HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN ...

HIS HAND IS GETTING CHEAPER BY THE DRAW!

THE WAITS IN HIS HAND ARE FILLING IN ALL THE WRONG WAYS...!

WASHIZU IS STILL IN A VERY ROUGH SPOT.

.....

THUS, IT WOULD SEEM...

IT'S AS THOUGH HE IS FORCING THE TILES IN!

RIGHT NOW, THE TILES...

IS THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE A RESULT OF WASHIZU'S WILL...?

BUT ...

USELESS DRAWS COME UP OFTEN AROUND THIS POINT...

IN A NORMAL GAME,

ARE BEING REFORMED TO MATCH WHAT HE DESIRES!

HE IS TRYING TO
PUSH HIS WAY THROUGH!

のたうちながら
昇るっ……！

FORCEFULLY
ASCENDING THROUGH
THE RAGING STORM...!

猛烈な風雨
黒の空を……！

WILL EXHAUST ITS STRENGTH ... IT WILL WEAKEN!

MUCH LIKE THE DRAGON WHO, IN TRYING TO REACH THE HEAVENS

THEN, OF COURSE,

IF YOU CARELESSLY PULL UP A HEAVY LOAD YOU NEED,

THAT IS JUST THE WAY THAT THINGS ARE!

IN TRUTH ...

IT WILL UNAVOIDABLY HAVE LOST MASS WHEN YOU FINISH!

IT WILL CHIP AWAY IN BITS AT A TIME...

NOT EVEN WASHIZU CAN ESCAPE THAT!

THAT'S FINE, TOO

OH, WELL.

IT COULD EASILY GO UP TO MANGAN!

AND WITH ANY URA DORA,

HE COULD STILL GET RIICHI, IPPATSU, DORA-1!

IF HE WERE TO DRAW THE 6-PIN OR WIN OFF THE 2-SIDED WAIT FOR IT,

EVEN NOW ...

THERE'S STILL A GOOD CHANCE ...

Ooo

NOW IT'S JUST A TRASH HAND ...

WITH IT, ANY CHANCE OF SAN SHOKU VANISHES!

HE DRAWS A 6-MAN ...!

BUT ...!

EVEN THIS 9-PIN!

TIME AFTER TIME, HIS DRAWS BETRAY HIM...

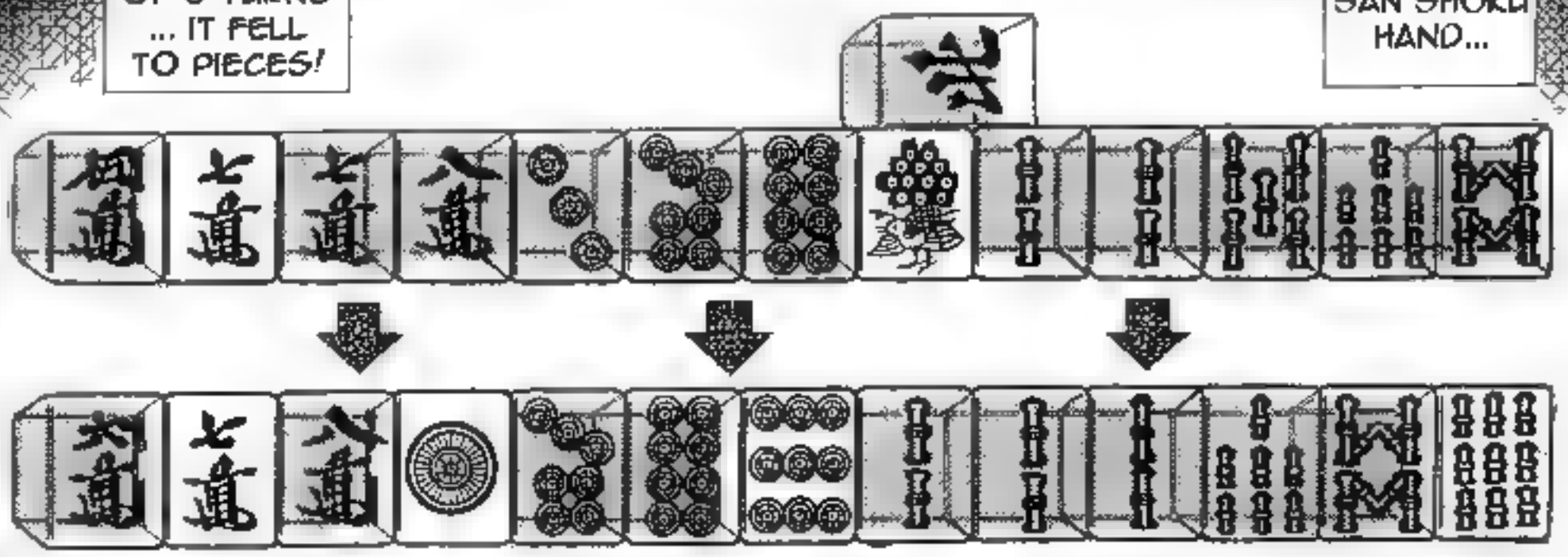
NOT EVEN THAT WORKED OUT!

IN THE END,

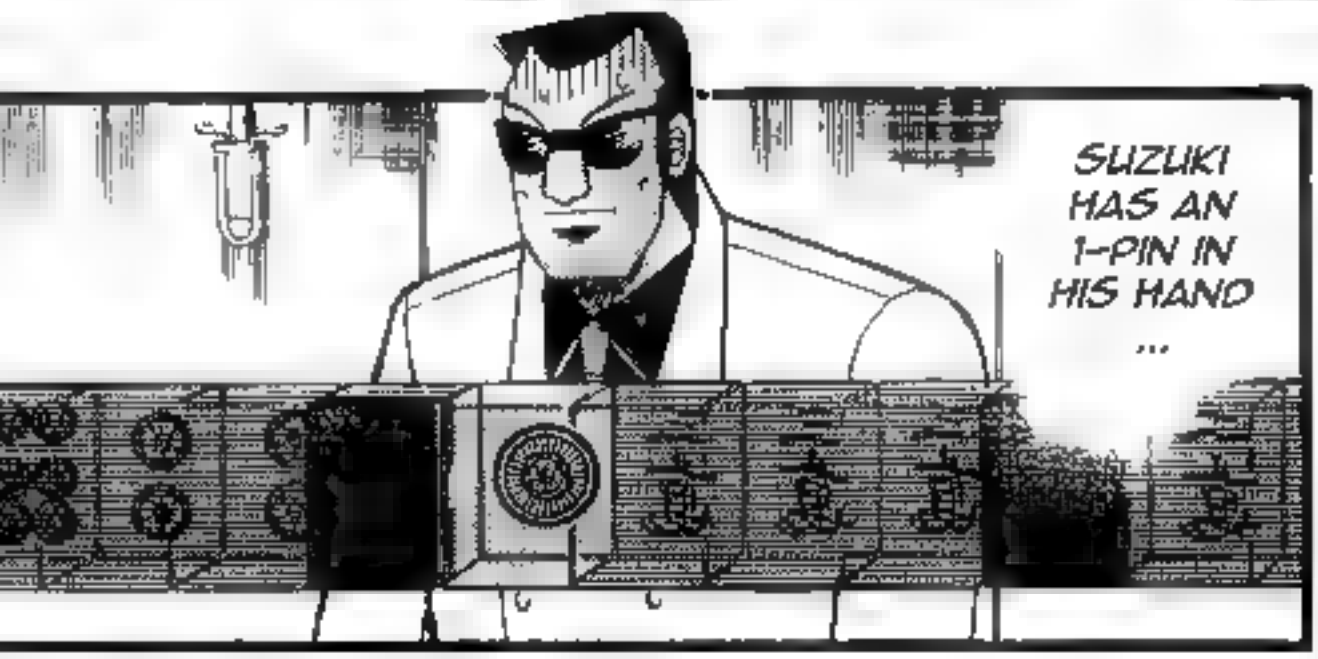
LOOKING AT HIS HAND NOW,

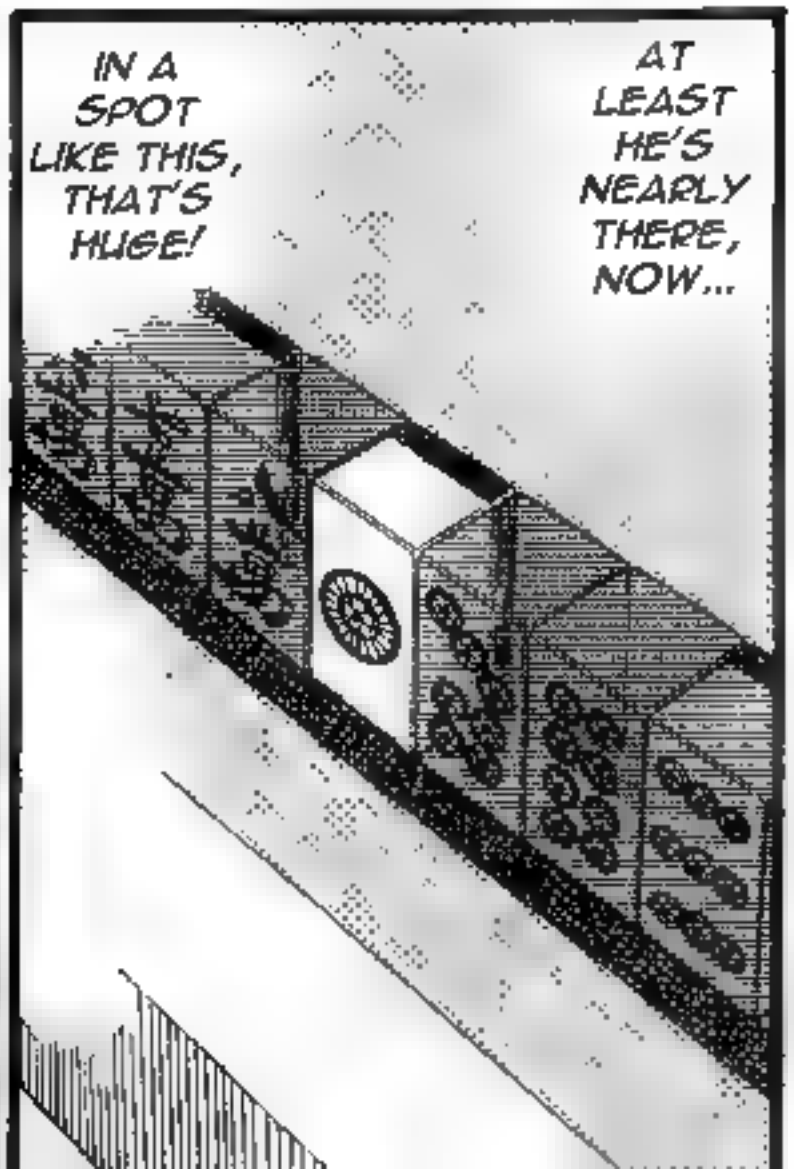
HAS ENTIRELY VANISHED IN A MATTER OF 6 TURNS ... IT FELL TO PIECES!

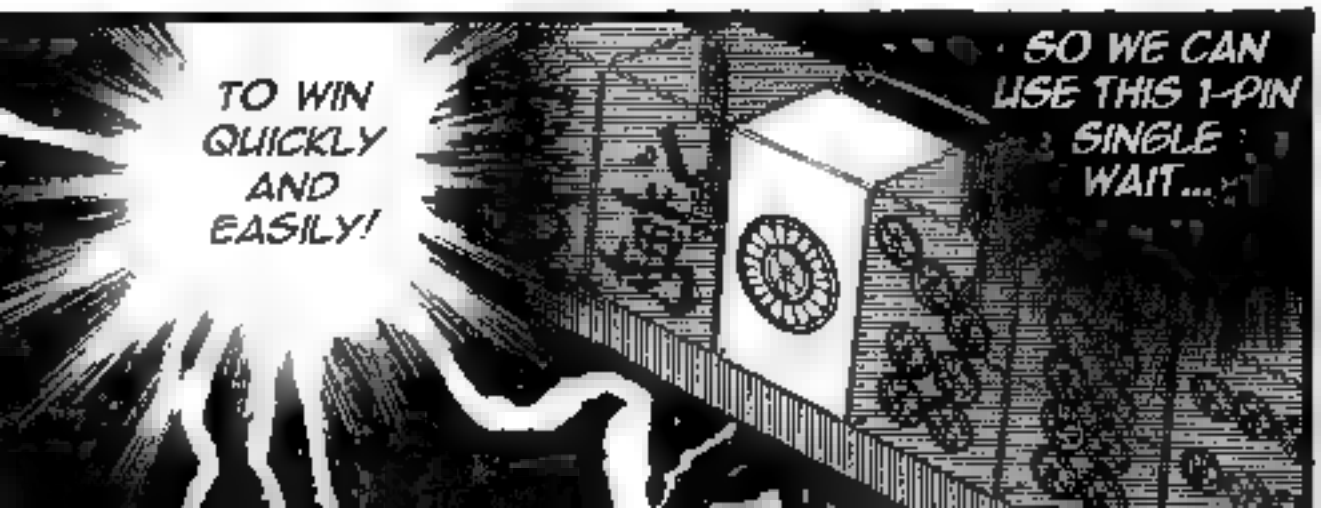
THIS MENZEN PINFU TANYAO SAN SHOKU HAND...



THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO BE!







KAN.

THERE'S A 100% GUARANTEED WAY FOR HIM TO WIN!

AT THIS TIME,

THIS IS BECAUSE SUZUKI WAS CAPABLE OF CALLING KAN WITH HIS 3-MAN.

FOR JUST ONE MORE TURN.

.....

WASHIZU DECIDES TO DELAY CALLING RIICHI

WELL ...

.....

WASHIZU CAN STILL CALL RIICHI ON THE VERY NEXT TURN.

ONCE THE NEW DORA IS REVEALED FROM THE KAN,

THE CLOSED KAN ...

INDEED, EVERYONE IS THINKING SIMILARLY TO YOSHI-OKA.

WE CAN'T REALLY EXPECT MUCH FROM IT ...

STRIKES DOWN LIKE LIGHT-NING...!

チラ!!

A SUR-PRISING TURN OF EVENTS ...

AND YET ...

AND THE NEW DORA SEEM ALMOST USE-LESS.

AN 1-SOU ...!!!

SOMEHOW, THE NEW DORA INDICATOR REVEALS ITSELF AS...

?...

WHICH MEANS ...

WASHIZU'S HAND SUDDENLY BECOMES A DORA 3...!!

WHA-...?!

DORA 3!!

DORA 3!!!

CHAPTER 96 -
MONSTROUS LUCK

第96話 剛運

WASHIZU JUST GOT A DORA 3 !!!!!!

ごわ…

ごわ…

HEH-
HEH-
HEH
…

THAT WAS UNEXPECTED …

LET ALONE THREE OF THEM …!

WHO COULD EVEN THINK OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS…? IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE COULD EVEN GET ONE OF THE DORA AT THIS POINT…

I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THIS IN MY WILDEST DREAMS…!

EVEN NOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT …

SO ...

MY BOSS'S REAL POTENTIAL ...!

THIS IS ...

AND IN THE EAST FIRST ROUND OF THIS MATCH, AKAGI SCORED A HANEMAN...!

THE FIRST AND SECOND MATCHES WERE LOST...

HIS NATURAL LUCK!

WITH THAT AWFUL LEADUP TO EVERYTHING ...

EVEN UP AGAINST THAT HEADWIND ...

AND, AT THE MOST CRUCIAL MOMENT, HIS DEALER TURN, HE SPRANG BACK!

HE "LAUGHED" IN THE FACE OF ALL THAT ...

MORE THAN THAT ...

HE GOT THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME FOR THE NEW DORA

RIICHI!

HE'S SECURED A SUREFIRE WAY TO WIN!

INTO WASHIZU-SAMA'S ...

NOW, SUZUKI WILL DEAL RIGHT IN ...

HE'S GOT A DEALER MANGAN!

THAT'S IT!

1-PIN SINGLE WAIT!

THIS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF...

WITH ANY URA DORA AT ALL, THIS HAND COULD EASILY LEAP TO HANEMAN!

AND YET ...

.....

HIS VICTORY OVER AKAGI ...!

RIICHI, IPPATSU, DORA 3 ...!

IN FACT ...

THAT'S A DEALER MANGAN ...!

eh ?!

SUZUKI'S DEAL ...

AND HE PLAYS A USE-LESS TILE, THE 2-MAN!

THE 1-PIN REMAINS IN HIS HAND ...

... DOES NOT PLAY INTO HIS HAND!

NO WAY ...

WHY ...?!

ぎわ…

THAT 1-PIN ...

WHY DIDN'T HE PLAY THE 1-PIN...?!

WAS THE TICKET TO A DEALER MANGAN ...!!

AKAGI'S HAND

HE'LL WANT TO DISCARD THEM!

WILL BE ISOLATED IN HIS HAND ...

THE 1-PIN AND THE 3-PIN...

AND FROM THE WAY THINGS LOOK...

AND SUZUKI HAS ALL BUT ONE OF THEM!

THAT CLOSED WAIT NEEDS A 2-PIN TO BE USEABLE ...

THAT'S RIGHT! AND MORE THAN THAT ...

AH ...!

IN AKAGI'S HAND, TOO!

THERE IS AN 1-PIN...

THERE'S THAT, TOO ...!

THAT'S RIGHT ...!

AN OBVIOUS DISCARD ...

IT'S VERY UNLIKELY TO TURN INTO A 1-2-3 PIN SET...!

IT WILL BECOME A USELESS CLOSED WAIT...!

THERE'S NO WAY HE'D KEEP IT!

AND AS FOR THE 1-PIN,

THE 3-PIN IS IN WASHIZU'S DISCARDS ...

THE 1 AND 3 PIN SEEM A LOT LIKE SAFE TILES!

PLUS, BOTH OF THEM ...

IT SHOULD SEEM LIKE A SAFE TILE, TOO!

BECAUSE WASHIZU DIDN'T WIN WITH IT RIGHT WHEN THE FIRST CHANCE AROSE,

USUALLY, IN WASHIZU MAHJONG ...

AFTER ALL, IT'S RIGHT IN PLAIN SIGHT IN SUZUKI'S HAND!

YOU'D WANT TO SECURE A WIN WITH THAT 1-PIN STRAIGHT AWAY!

HE'D NEVER DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD PREVENT WASHIZU FROM WINNING!

PLUS, SINCE SUZUKI'S GOAL HERE IS SIMPLY TO AID WASHIZU-SAMA,

OF COURSE YOU WOULD!

AND AKAGI ...

THAT'S THE LOGIC THAT COMES FROM THE "SECOND POND" IN SUZUKI'S TILES!

SO THEREFORE, AKAGI SHOULD THINK THAT WASHIZU CAN'T WIN OFF OF ANY OF SUZUKI'S TILES... AND THAT ALL OF SUZUKI'S TILES ARE SAFE BY PROXY!

SO NOW ...

WILL END UP REFERRING TO IT, TIME AND TIME AGAIN ...!

ｽｯ

AKAGI'S HAND

THE QUESTION IS...

WILL HE DEAL THAT 1-PIN ...?

HE'D DRAW 1200 MORE ...!

1200

1100

THAT'S 2300 TOTAL!

WITH THIS DEALER MANGAN ...

1300 CCS OF BLOOD DRAWN TO THIS POINT.

AKAGI HAS HAD ...

AH ...

IF HE CUTS THE 1-PIN ...

SO NOW ...

HE'LL DIE!

HE'S USING THAT ONE!

HE WOULD DIE, NO QUESTIONS ASKED!

HE'D DIE!

THERE WOULD NOT BE A SINGLE HOPE FOR HIS SURVIVAL!

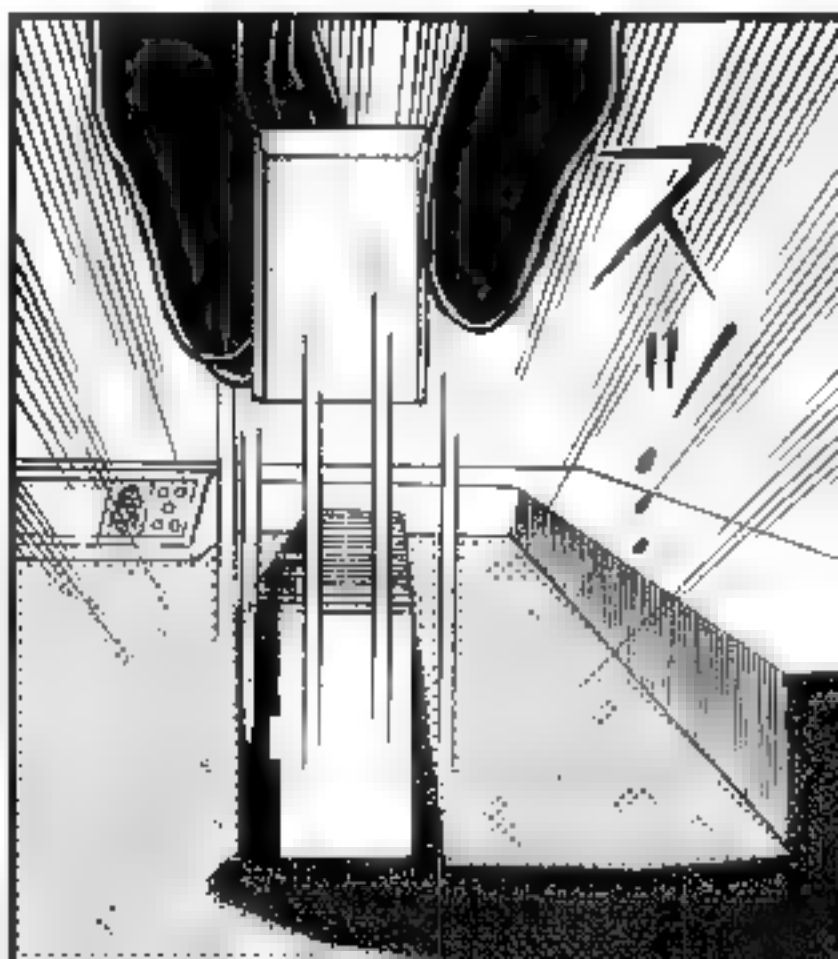
WOULD BE OVER HALF THE BLOOD IN THE HUMAN BODY!

THAT AMOUNT

THE DEALING OF DEATH..!!

死の一打……！

IF HE DEALS THE 1-PIN...



THIS COULD BE IT...!!

URGH ...!

TCH
...

.....

AS IS TO BE EXPEC-TED...

HEH-HEH ...

HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...

IT SEEMS HE CAN SENSE THAT MUCH, AT THE VERY LEAST.

THAT HE COULD DIE FROM IT!

ARE BOTH TRAPS...

AND THE 1-PIN IN HIS HAND ...

HE CAN SENSE THAT NOT DEALING IN FOR AN IPPATSU...

I UNDER-STAND THAT PERFECTLY!

THAT MAKES TOTAL SENSE...

THEY'RE SIMPLY EXTRAOR-DINARY!

YES ...

THIS KID'S SENSES ARE MUCH HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE MAN'S ...

GOOO

THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM IN THE LEAST!

AND SO HE DECIDED NOT TO DIVE IN STRAIGHT AWAY...

TO TEST THE WATERS A BIT AT FIRST!

AND HAVING SOMEONE DEAL INTO MY HAND RIGHT AFTER!

NO OTHER WAY ABOUT IT ...

THE WAY THINGS ARE, I SHOULD ONLY GET POINTS FROM SETTING UP A RIICHI...

BUT ...

EVEN THOUGH IT IS GLARINGLY OBVIOUS ...

THIS TRAP ...

IT JUST WON'T DO!

BUT THAT WON'T SCARE YOU ENOUGH!

IT SHOULD GET INTERESTING ONCE YOU BEGIN TO DOUBT IT ...!

I'LL KEEP IT UP!

HE WILL BE CAUGHT BY THE LOGIC OF THE "SECOND POND"...!

YES, IT WILL DISTURB HIM...

LIKE AN EARTH TREMOR ...

THAT BETRAYAL OF LOGIC SHOULD THROW HIM OFF COURSE ...

IN OTHER WORDS, THE FACT THAT I DECIDED NOT TO USE MY NORMAL STRATEGY OF HAVING SUZUKI DEAL IN AFTER I RIICHI...

AND THAT IS SOMETHING I WOULD SIMPLY LOVE TO SEE!

HE WILL BE IN A VERY... VERY... VERY DANGEROUS POSITION...!

THE EFFECTS OF THAT DISTURBANCE WILL SHAKE HIM TO THE CORE...!

HEH-HEH-HEH...!

Opo

HEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

CHAPTER 97 - POSTPONEMENT

第97話 猶予

THE THIRD MATCH OF WASHIZU MAHJONG ...

EAST SECOND ROUND, NINTH TURN.

KEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

KHA-HA-HA...

OH-HO-HO-HO...

THE DEALER IS WASHIZU, WITH A RIICHI THAT COULD TURN THE GAME AROUND 180 DEGREES...!

JUST NOW, THIS HAND...

YES...

THAT'S RIGHT...

THIS DRAW COULD GIVE HIM AN IPPATSU TSUMO!

THAT ALONE IS A HANE-MAN HAND!

AND IF I SCORE AN IPPATSU MENZEN TSUMO, THAT'S 6 HAN!

AND ON A DEALER TURN! RIICHI, DORA 3...

GOT THE BEST POSSIBLE DORA!

THERE'S NO HURRY, HERE!

NO NEED TO RUSH...

I'VE DECIDED TO HOLD OFF ON HAVING SUZUKI DEAL INTO MY HAND...!

AND SINCE HE'S ...

THAT'S GOOO FROM EVERY-ONE!

DEALER HANEMAN TSUMO ...

IF I GET WHAT I NEED ...

RIGHT HERE AND NOW ...

BECAUSE OF THAT ...

LOST 1100 CCS TO THIS POINT ...

NO, RATHER ...

THAT'S JUST SHORT OF DEATH ...

A TOTAL OF 1700 CCS TO THIS POINT..!

600

1100

HE WOULD LOSE 600 CCS OF BLOOD ...

KEH-HEH-HEH ...

IT WOULD NOT BE STRANGE IF HE WERE TO DIE AT THAT POINT..!

HE'D BE AT DEATH'S DOOR, ALREADY!

THIS 1-PIN SINGLE WAIT ...

IF THIS IS THE RIGHT ONE..!

THEN THAT MAN RIGHT THERE ...

IF I GET IT RIGHT NOW ...

... WILL DIE!!

IF IT'S AN 1- PIN...

HE'LL DIE...!!

KEH- HEH- HEH ...

HEH- HEH ...

ﾊｱ…

……

Oo

WHEW …

KEH-HEH-HEH

KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH …

HE CAN'T FIGHT IT…!!

AS MUCH AS HE WANTS TO…

HE WOULD HAVE DIED …!

YES… IF IT WERE AN 1-PIN …

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, HE WOULD HAVE DIED IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN…!

KEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

KEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

WHY WAS I IN SUCH AN AWFUL RUSH...?

YES
YES
...

KHA-
HA-
HA-
HA
...

THERE'S NO REASON TO GET NERVOUS AND LOSE TRACK OF 'MY-SELF'

DID NOT GO EXACTLY AS ACCORDING TO PLAN...

AS WELL AS THE FIRST ROUND OF THIS THIRD MATCH

WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT THE FIRST AND SECOND MATCHES

HOW THOUGHT-LESS I WAS!

I'M IN A GREATLY SUPERIOR POSITION!

EVEN NOW, I STILL HAVE A TRULY MASSIVE ADVANTAGE!

WHY WAS I EVEN THINKING ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING ...?

THAT'S RIGHT ...!

NO ONE ELSE!

SHOULD BE HIM, OF COURSE ...!

AT THE MO-MENT, THE ONE TREM-BLING

STAND BEFORE THE GATES OF HELL!

THAT MAN WILL, WITHOUT A DOUBT ...

IF HE DEALS THAT TILE AT ANY POINT...

THAT'S ALL IT WOULD TAKE ...

IF HE JUST DEALS IT HERE ...!

KEH-HEH HEH ...

.....

IT WENT IN ...!

YES ...

HAND IT OVER ...!

YOUR BLOOD WILL BE DRAINED OUT OF YOU ...

IF YOU DO, YOU SHALL DIE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!

TOO BAD, THAT'S IT!

AND YOU WILL DIE!!

HE MADE IT OUT AGAIN, I SEE...

ざわ…

HEH- HEH- HEH ...

ざわ…

ざわ…

ざわ…

THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO WORRY ...

RIGHT NOW, THE ONE WHO'S RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE...

THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE!

IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND ...!

THAT'S RIGHT ...

KHA- HA- HA- HA...

THAT I HAVE AT LEAST A MANGAN ...

HE IS ABLE TO SEE ...

PERHAPS EVEN A HANEMAN!

HE'S THE ONE ACTUALLY STRUGGLING ...!

IT'S HIM!

I CAN TRAP HIM WITH JUST THIS HAND!

I'M THE ONE WITH ALL THE POWER HERE ...

THAT'S RIGHT...!

HEH-HEH ...

BE FRIGH-TENED ...!

I HOLD EVERY BIT OF POWER IN THIS MATCH...!

IT WILL BREAK HANE-MAN!

IF I GET JUST ONE URA DORA,

AND, THAT MEANS...

THE HANEMAN THAT COULD CAUSE AKAGI'S DEATH!

IF I CAN DRAW IT HERE...

EVEN WITHOUT AN IPPATSU...

THIS IS THE DRAW OF HIS LIFE!!

HEH-HEH-HEH...

HEH-HEH...

HEH-HEH...

.....

THIS DRAW WILL KILL HIM!

HE'LL DIE!

HE'LL DIE!

KEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

HUH
...

WHEW
...

カチャリ…

KHA-
HA-
HA!

WA-
SHIZU-
SAMA
...

WITH THIS
1-PIN
...?

SUZUKI'S
HAND

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO...?

AND
BESIDES,
TAKE A
LOOK AT
THEIR
HANDS!

I CAN WIN
WHENEVER
I WANT
LATER ON
...

LET ME
HAVE
SOME
MORE
FUN,
FIRST!

DON'T
RUSH IT
... DON'T
YOU
RUSH IT!

SHOULD
I PLAY
IT NOW?

QUIT
YOUR
WOR-
RY-
ING!

……

ごく

THERE'S REALLY NOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT!

AS FOR AKAGI,

WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.

HE WON'T GET TO TENPAI FOR A WHILE, YET...

RYAN SHAN TEN AT THE VERY BEST.

IT'S BEEN TORN TO PIECES!

AKAGI'S HAND

IT'S FAR ENOUGH AWAY THAT WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT ...

AT LEAST, NOT YET.

THE COP'S HAND ...

ざわ…ざわ…

YOU SEE?

IT'S UNLIKELY HE CAN GET IT ANYWHERE SOON.

BUT UNLESS HE CAN CALL THE THIRD OR DRAW IT ...

HE HAS A PAIR OF CHUN, WHICH IS KEY,

YASUOKA'S HAND

THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S WAITING ON A 2-PIN, OF WHICH YOU HAVE THREE!

HIS 1-PIN AND 3-PIN ARE SIMPLY USELESS!

AND MORE THAN THAT,

SO THERE'S NO WAY TO FILL IT IN!

ONCE HE GETS THERE ARE JUST MINISCULE!

THE CHANCE OF HIM WINNING ...

EVEN IF HE GETS TO TENPAI, HE MUST WAIT ON THE 2-PIN!

AS LONG AS IT IS THERE,

GET BACK TO THE GAME!

COME ON, LET'S GO!

SIR.

DO YOU SEE WHAT I'M SAYING?

AND PLENTY OF IT!

I STILL HAVE TIME TO KILL...

HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...

WASHIZU KEEPS HIS SUBOR-DINATE ON STANDBY.

HE STALLS ONCE AGAIN ...

SUZUKI'S TENTH TURN

AND NOW, AKAGI TAKES HIS TURN ...!

HE REACHES HIS HAND INTO THE TILES...

OHHHH?

.....

...AND TAKES OUT A 3-PIN!

HEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

WHICH MEANS

AKABI HAS MADE A PAIR OF THEM!

WITH THIS CLAW OF THE 3-PIN

HOW INTER-ESTING!

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

THE 1-PIN IS NOW TOTALLY ISOLATED!

WELL ME-...

SO, IT WOULD BE BEST TO JUST BE RID OF IT!

KEH-HEH-HEH

THAT 1-PIN ...!!

KEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

ざわ・・・

SO HE DIDN'T, THEN ...

I BELIEVE THAT IT'S MORE THAN THAT ...

DOES HE STILL HAVE UNNEEDED TILES? THAT'S WHAT I COULD SEE IT AS, BUT...

AKAGI SEEMS TO BE AWARE OF IT..!

I SEE... THAT IS FINE!

ざわ・・・

ざわ・・・

IS JUST A TRAP TO LURE HIM INTO DEALING IT HIMSELF!

HE FEELS THAT THE 1-PIN THAT SUZUKI HAS BEEN HOLDING ON TO...

HE CANNOT DEAL THAT 1-PIN ...

HEH-HEH-HEH ...

KHA-HA-HA ...

.....

THE DEALER, WASHIZU, TAKES HIS DRAW!

IF I CAN DRAW IT HERE AND NOW!

BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS ...

THE START OF THE 11TH TURN ...

HE SIMPLY MUST KNOW!

IT'S FOR CERTAIN ...

ゴッ

THAT'S RIGHT ...!

引けばっ……！！

完了する……！！

勝ちが……

I WILL DRAW IT HERE AND NOW...!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW...!

IF I DRAW IT HERE, IT'S ALL OVER!!

THE 1-PIN ...

IF I DRAW IT, I CAN KILL HIM!!

THE 1-PIN ...!!

IF I DRAW IT...!

THIS MAN WILL DIE ...!

I CAN FINALLY SEE HIS DEATH ...

第98話 強欲

CHAPTER 98 - GREED

ざわ

HEH-HEH-HEH

WASHIZU 21000 POINTS DOWN 1215 MILLION YEN (MINUS 1000 POINTS FROM RICHI)

THIRD HANCHAN, EAST 2ND ROUND, 0 HONBA
AKAGI. 37,000 POINTS, -1100 CCS
TOTAL EARNINGS: 1215 MILLION YEN

I CAN SEE HIS FLAME FINALLY SIZZLING OUT!

THE STRING HAS ALMOST TOTALLY BURNT AWAY

RIGHT NOW, HIS LIFE IS LIKE A CANDLE, FLICKERING IN THE WIND!

AND YET...

I CAN KILL HIM...!!

YES ...

SOME-HOW, HE'S STILL SO CALM ...!
HE'S ALMOST DEAD, BUT ...

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT ...?!
HE...

GRSH

FOR GOD'S SAKE ...

HAHH ...

IT'S ALWAYS THE ONES AROUND HIM WHO GET SCARED!

THIS IS NO FUN!

TCH ...!

WHEW ...

THIS KID RE-MAINS FIRM!!

THE ONE MOST IN DAN-GER ...

WHY WON'T HE TREMBLE?!

WHY ISN'T HE AFRAID?!

THAT'S BORING ...

THAT IT WILL NEVER COME TO THAT ...?!

IS HE RATION-ALIZING THAT IT CANNOT HAPPEN TO HIM ?!

IS THAT WHAT IT IS?!

DOES HE THINK THAT HE IS IMMUNE TO DEATH ...?!

THAT IT WILL NOT REACH HANEMAN ...

AND IT WILL REMAIN AT A DEALER RIICHI DORA 3 MENZEN TSUMO MANGAN ...?

I WILL NOT GET ANY URA-DORA ...

IN OTHER WORDS, THAT EVEN IF I DRAW THE WINNING TILE ON MY TURN ...

.....

IS THAT WHAT HE THINKS WILL HAP-PEN ...?

THAT TRANSLATES TO 400 CCS OF BLOOD TO LOSE!

A DEALER MANGAN TSUMO IS STILL 4000 POINTS FROM EVERYONE!

IT WOULD STILL BE A TOTAL OF 1500 CCS...!

400

1100

WITH THAT AND THE 1100 CCS ALREADY DRAWN FROM HIM,

EVEN IF THAT IS WHAT ENDS UP HAPPE-NING...

NO ...

AFTER LOSING THAT MUCH, HE'D ONLY BARELY BE HOLDING ON!

HE WOULDN'T DIE FROM JUST THAT, BUT HE'D STILL BE LIGHTHEADED!

AND IF HE KEPT PLAYING DESPITE ALL OF THAT ...

ONLY HALF-ALIVE...

HAPPILY ABLE TO THINK STRAIGHT!!! ...

HE'D BE STAGGERING ...

SELF-EXPLAN-ATORY ...!

THAT'S OB-VIOUS ...

IN THE END, HE'D DIE IN DUE TIME, ANY-WAY!!

HE WOULD MOST ASSU-REDLY MAKE MISTAKES ...!!

AND EVEN IF HE DOESN'T ...

DOES HE NOT UNDER-STAND THAT SIM-PLE FACT ...?!

なぜ…震えぬっ…!?

WHY?!

なぜ…!?

WHY IS N'T HE AFRAID OF DEATH ...?!

AREN'T YOU AT ALL AFRAID OF DEATH ...?!?!

死ぬことが……！

OF DEATH...!

死ぬことが……！

OF DEATH...!

死ぬことが……

OF DEATH...!

死ぬことが……！

OF DEATH...!

死ぬことが……！

OF DEATH...!

死ぬことが……！

IT'S ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE...

WHAT THE-?!

AHH ...!!

DO IT!

HOW CURIOUS ...

SIP.

KAN!

GUH ...!!

ざわ

TO ADD MORE DORA TO WASHIZU'S HAND!

A KAN THAT SEEKS

A CLOSED KAN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BACKING WASHIZU UP!

.....

Ooo

A VERY GREEDY CLOSED KAN!

AND ...

WHA ...?

?

URGH ...!!

IT BEARS FRUIT...!

?

?

.....

ガタ

GUH...!

ガガガ...

WHICH MEANS ...

WASHI-ZU'S HAND ...

EVOLVES ONCE MORE!!

THAT'S RIGHT ...!

THE NEW DORA INDICA-TOR IS AN 1-SOU!

IT TRANS-FORMS ...

INTO A DORA 6 HAND ...!!

WASHIZU HAS A DORA 6 ...!!!

GAH...!!

KH.../

WITH THIS NEW KAN ...

WASHIZU'S HAND IS NOW A RIICHI, DORA 6 DEALER HANEMAN!!

IF HE GETS A SINGLE URA DORA ...

OR WINS WITH A MENZEN TSUMO ...

KHAAAH HA HA HA HAAAH!!!

IT IS SWARMING ALL AROUND HIM...

GRH...

A TRULY UNBELIE-VABLE HAPPEN-STANCE!

IT COULD BECOME A DEALER BAIMAN ...!!

KH...!

THIS TRE-MEN-DOUS MASS OF LUCK!!

SOME-THING IS HAP-PENING WITH WASHIZU-SAMA TO MAKE IT SWARM AROUND HIM...

KAH-HAH-HAH ...

...

KAH-HAH-HAH ...

.....

KEE-HIH-HIH-HIH ...

KHA-HAHA-HAHA!

WASHI-ZU-SAMA ...

WHAT HAP-PENS NOW ...?

カチャッ!

カチャ...

SHOULD I DEAL IN NOW?

THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO LET YOU WIN...

A DEALER BAIMAN IS VERY LIKELY RIGHT NOW!

NO... WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE, YOU'RE SURE TO GET URA-DORA!

NOW THAT YOU HAVE A DEALER HANEMAN FOR SURE ...

YOU REALLY ARE STUPID!

.....

JUST QUIT WHILE I'M AHEAD?!

WHAT ARE YOU SUG-GES-TING I DO, HERE?!

THAT'S A DEALER BAIMAN

AFTER ALL, IF I CAN DRAW IT MYSELF...

DON'T YOU EVEN THINK OF THAT! KEEP PLAYING!!

WITH AN EXTRA 800 ON TOP OF THAT 1100 HE'S LOST TO NOW,

I CAN GET 800 CCS FROM HIM FOR SURE, WITH THAT!

8000 POINTS FROM EVERYONE!

ACTUALLY, SINCE IT'S RIGHT AT THE FATAL AMOUNT...

HE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY DIE AT THAT POINT...

HIS DEATH IS CERTAIN!

800

1100

IT'S 1900 CCS!!

FOR SURE!!

THAT I SIMPLY MUST SEE!!

AND THAT IS SOMETHING...

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, HE WILL BE TREMBLING!

IF HE'S RIGHT AT DEATH'S DOOR,

SHOW IT TO ME!!

HIS AGONY ...!!

HIS DE-SPAIR ...!!

HIS TREM-BLING ...

SIR.

CHAPTER 99 - GHOULS

第99話 魔物

KEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH
...

……

ごわ・・・

KEH-HEH-HEH …

KHA-HA-HA …

WASHIZU MAHJONG, EAST 2ND ROUND, 12TH HAND.

EAST SECOND ROUND, 0 HONBA
AKAGI: 37,000 POINTS
-1100 CCS

WASHIZU: 21,000 POINTS
DOWN 121.5 MILLION YEN
(-1000 POINTS FROM RIICHI)

IF HE WERE TO PLAY IT HIMSELF …

NOT TO MEN-TION …

THAT'S 2900 CCS HE'D HAVE DRAWN IN TOTAL, WELL OVER THE FATAL AMOUNT!

1800

1 8

HE'D DEAL INTO A DEALER HANEMAN WORTH 1800 CCS..!

KEH-HEH-HEH …

!!

AT THAT MOMENT, HE'D LOSE 800 CCS …

IF I CAN TSUMO, THAT'S IT FOR HIM!

RIICHI, TSUMO, DORA 6 …

HE'LL DIE!

THAT'S 1900 CCS TOTAL, RIGHT UP AT THE FATAL AMOUNT …

NOW, LET'S SEE IT …!

KEH-HEH-HEH …

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...!

AND SO THEN, YOU WOULD DIE...!

AHH?

WILL IT GO IN ...?

HIS HAND S STARTING TO COME TOGETHER NOW. WOULDN'T YOU SAY

MMMM

YOU WILL FINALLY BE RID OF IT.

HAVE HEEN USING AN UFO SO LIKE THAT MEAN

IT WOULD SEEM AS THOUGH MOST OF YOUR USELESS TILES

THIS REALLY IS INTE-RESTING

EH-HEH-HEH

THAT 1-PIN OF YOURS ...?!

AKAGI'S HAND

WANT TO GET RID OF IT? THAT USELESS TILE?

SO HOW ABOUT IT~?

RIGHT~?

YOU MIGHT JUST BE THINKING TOO MUCH INTO IT!

SO IT MIGHT NOT BE A TRAP!

I MEAN, SUZUKI HASN'T DEALT IN WITH THE 1-PIN YET...

AFTER ALL, THAT'S ALL THAT THERE IS TO MAHJONG...!

WHAT POINT IS THERE IN KEEPING IT? YOU CAN'T GET INTO TENPAI WITH THAT NASTY WAIT!

KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...

UN-LIKE THE 3-PIN,

A WORTH-LESS TILE!

AND SO, THAT 1-3 PIN CLOSED WAIT CANNOT POSSIBLY FILL!

JUST NOW, WITH SUZUKI'S KAN, ALL THE 2-PINS WERE USED UP!

KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...

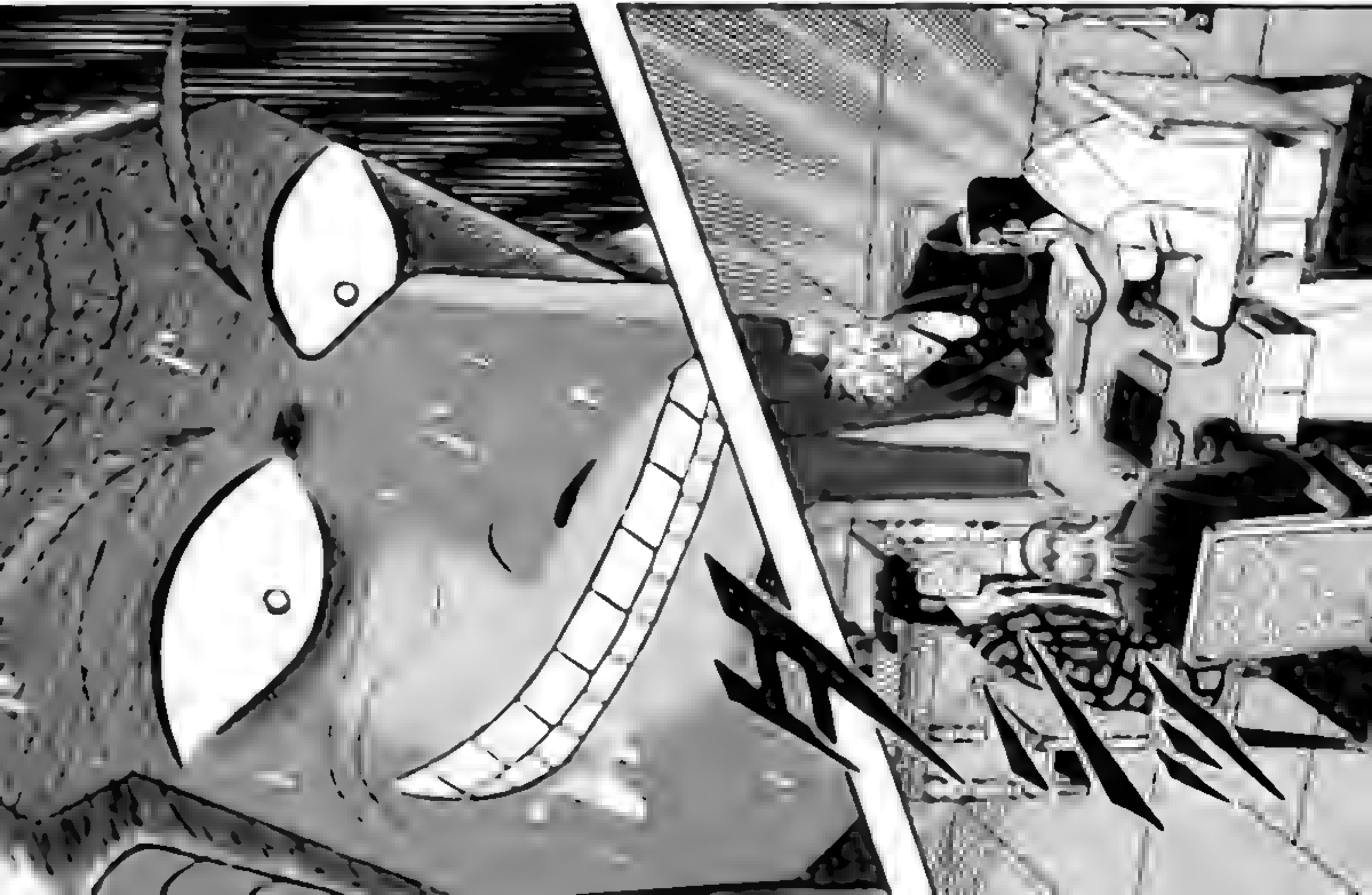
THAT 1-PIN WILL CER-TAINLY WEIGH YOU DOWN.

THAT 1-PIN!!!

WHO'S TO SAY THAT IT WOULDN'T PASS?

WASHIZU'S 1-PIN WAIT

KEH- HEH- HEH- HEH ...



HEH ... HEH ...

KEH- HEH- HEH ...

TCH!

HE REALLY WON'T DEAL IT?

WHAT'S ALL THIS, THEN?

ABOUT MY 1-PIN WAIT?!

DOES HE REALLY KNOW?

EVEN WITH THAT HAND, HE WON'T DEAL IT?

I SUPPOSE THAT'S FINE, TOO.

WASHI-ZU'S 13TH TURN

OH, WELL...

TCH ...

ALL I NEED TO DO NOW ...

IT'S ALL THE SAME.

...IS DRAW IT MYSELF ...!!

HERE AND NOW !!!

HE WILL DIE!

AND THEN HE WILL DIE!!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!!!

GRH
...!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS ...?!

WHY ... AREN'T YOU TREMBLING?!

WHY ...?

WHY ...?

WHY ...?

WHY ...?

WHY ...?

WHY ...?

I MEAN IT!!

YOU'LL DIE!!

TCH...

YOU'LL DIE, YOU KNOW!

WITHOUT A DOUBT, FROM IT ...

IF I DRAW IT HERE ...

WHY AREN'T YOU FRIGHTENED?

ARE THOSE AROUND HIM!

AND ONCE AGAIN, THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN'T SO MUCH AS HIDE THEIR FEAR

...

HE ALWAYS REMAINS CALM, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

...

AH...!

URGH...!

WHOOOOOOOAAAHHH.....!!

THIS FLOW ...?!

WHAT'S WITH THIS DRAW...

AND IT'S ...

HE CAN MAKE A KAN NOW...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THIS 2-SOU KAN IS ...

DORA
8...!!

KAN!!

URGH ...!!

KEH-HEH-HEH-HEH!!

GRGH ...

.....

KHI-
HI-
HI-
HI!!

KHA-
HA-
HA-
HA!!

KUU-
HU-
HU-
HU!!

KOH-
HO-
HO-
HO!!

THE EVIL SPIRIT IN ME ...

IT IS FINALLY HERE ...

AND WITH THIS ...

HAS COME BY TO VISIT ME...!

THIS UN-BELIE-VABLE OCCUR-ANCE ...

WE DELAYED IT...

SINCE SUZUKI DIDN'T DEAL IN, YET...

A... KA... GI... KUN...!

KEH-HEH-HEH ...

.....

YOU WILL DIE ON THIS VERY NIGHT ...!!

I HOPE YOU KNOW ...

.....

IT'S A VOICE STRAIGHT FROM HELL...!

I HEAD A VOICE

IT CLAIMS TO HAVE DOMINION OVER MAHJONG..

AND IT'S TELLING ME THAT TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT THAT A CERTAIN AKAGI SHIGERU WILL DIE...!!

KHO-
HO-
HO-
HO!!

KHI-
HI-
HI-
HI!!

KHU-
HU-
HU-
HU-
HU!!

KHA-
HA-
HA-
HA!

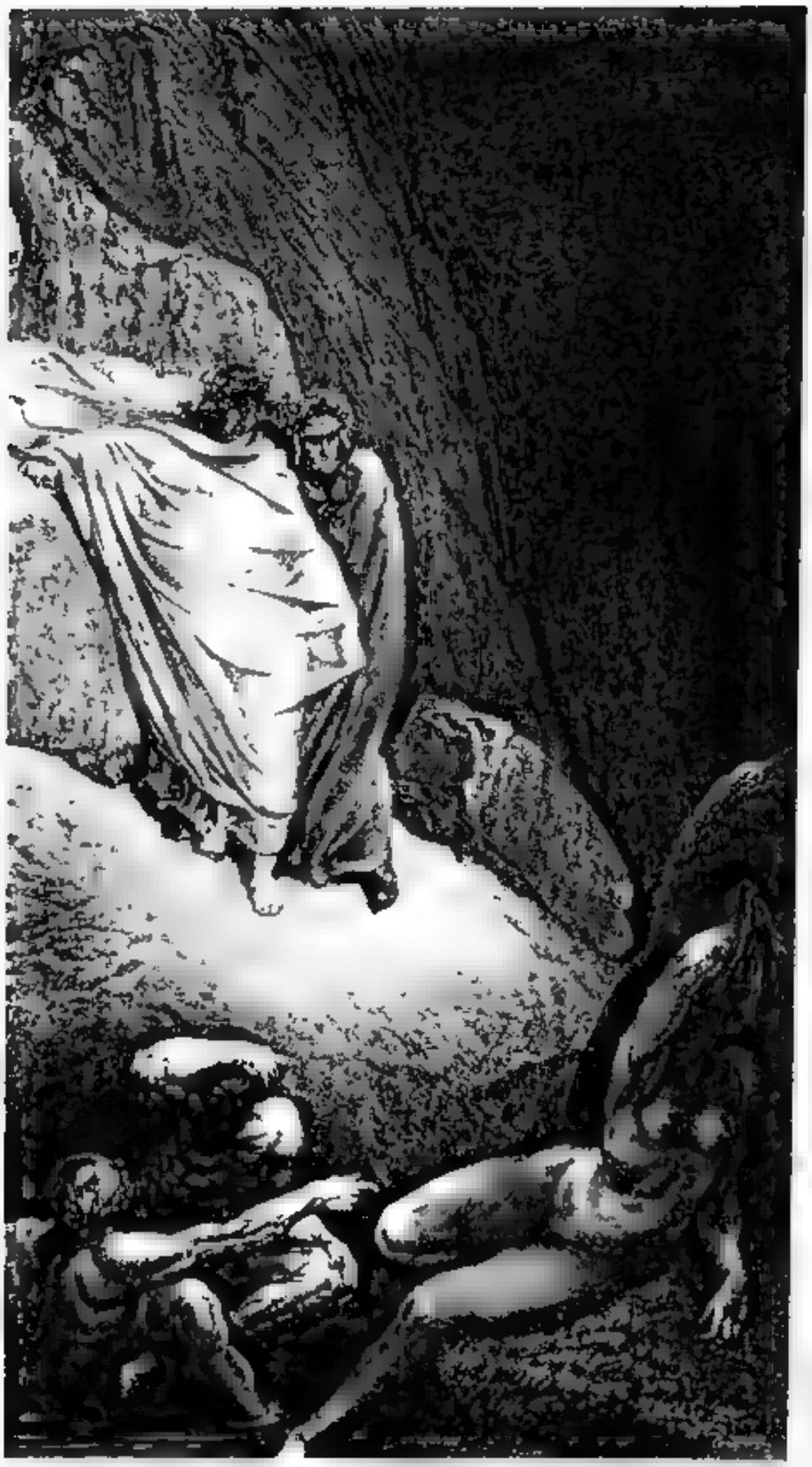
……

KEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH
…!

ぐわっ…

アカギ⑪/完

AKAGI 11 - FIN



狂気の沙汰ほど面白い!!

アカギの麻雀戦術を学ぶ!!

彼
その正体は13歳の少年。
万有引力の法則を無化して、
地底から天空まで旅する者。

彼
少年の名はアカギ。
後に神域の男と呼ばれ、
裏社会に君臨する赤木しげるだった。

絶賛発売中!!

悪魔の戦術 3

暗黒の麻雀戦術書

彼
その正体は白髪の悪魔。
ユークリッド系を抜け出し、
新たな公理系を浮遊する者。

【原著】
福本伸行

【著】
福地誠

【監修】
近代麻雀編集部

定価 本体838円+税

天

逆転発想の秘術

本文から

「オレたちはまず ヤマを返す…」

東のメンバーになるために、天からテストを与えられたひろゆきだったがクリアできなかった。そのテストとは、2分以内に4人分の配牌を見て、どれか一つ選んで八巡以内に和了ることだった。2分という限られた時間で、配牌の比較、展開の推理をしていたひろゆきに対し、天は「まぬけ…オレだったら全てのヤマを開け記憶していただろう…」と言い放つ。逆を衝かれたひろゆきには反論の余地はなかった…。

●解析

ここで天が言いたかったのは、イカサマをしろということではない。発想を柔軟にしろ、つまり「理」に縛られるな!!ということなのである。ルールの枠内では高い能力を発揮する優等生のひろゆきだが、枠を乗り越えようという力強い発想は出てこなかったのだ…。

『天』に学ぶ発想の 絶賛発売中!

福本伸行【原著】

転換法、自由自在!!

常識やセオリー、経験則、確率……そういった誰もが信じる汎用的な発想では所詮2割5分の勝率だ。ワンランク上を目指すなら発想そのものを変革していかねばならない。もちろん麻雀にかぎったことではない。勝負すべきときには必ず必要になる発想転換の術。福本作品の代表作のひとつ、『天』から学ぶ逆転発想の秘術!!

【著】**福地誠**

【監修】近代麻雀編集部

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KINDAI-MAHJONG COMICS
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女や酒、友人、家族…そんなものは
…全部休憩だ。いらねえよそんなもの。
勝負ができなきゃ無意味だ。
勝負が人生の全て!!

勝負せよ……！

赤木VS僧我!!最後の戦いか!?
互いの命を賭けたナイン勝負!!

とは!?

最新刊

第17巻

絶賛発売中!!

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「死はこわくなんかない」
「あったかい人間はあったかく死んでいける」
自ら命を断つ決心をしただ赤木はそう語る。
それでもなお、死を思いとどまらせようと、
かつての仲間たちは翻意を促すが……!!

赤木の死生観は!?

死ぬこと

近代麻雀コミックス
アカギ⑪

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